

ST. MATTHEW MATTERS



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

11213 Highway 49, Gulfport, MS 39503

228-864-6264

E-Mail Address: m1919@bellsouth.net

Web Page: stmatthewgulfport.tripod.com

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:45 a.m.

Message from Congregational President

Dear Friends in Christ,

As always said, April showers bring May flowers and as you look around the flowers are surely in full bloom. In May we will honor our Mother's on May 12th, and some will be celebrating graduations with family and friends. Additionally, many will be planning summer vacations.

These are also exciting times at St. Matthew as we continue to work on finalizing our survey that we will submit to the District office, and the remodeling that is underway. A "Thank You" to those who have donated their time for this initiative.

In James 1, Verse 17 we read, *Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.*"

I want to "Thank" each of you for your continued support of St. Matthew and each other as we go through the vacancy process.

May God continue to guide our Congregation.

Yours in Christ,

Tim

Stewardship

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

Stewardship Chair
Donald Shotzberger



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



CHECK OUT
ST. MATTHEW'S WEB PAGE

STMATTHEWGULFPORT.TRIPOD.COM

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

	May	
	1	Deborah East
	2	Janet Rutledge
	6	Keith East
	18	Al Philo
	19	Sarah Dukeman
	25	Johnathan Byrd
	30	Rosa O'Bannon

Blessed and Happy Anniversary

4	Michael and Michelle Slade
7	David and Judy Parker
14	Mike and Lynda Byrd
21	Jonathon & Sayo Bryd

*(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.)*



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.

The current **Apostle Creed Bible Study** will be completed in June. At the May Bible Study we need to decide which study we want to do next. Please bring to the May study information on one or two Bible Studies you wish to be considered. Need to know content, cost, and publisher. Pastor Cooper agreed to continue to lead the study.

Sunday Worship Time With our Voter's meeting scheduled for May, there will be a discussion and vote on start time for our Sunday Worship Service. As we know, our current start time is 10:45 AM, with Sunday School starting at 9:30 AM. The discussion will be to move the start time for Sunday Worship Service to 10:00 AM, with Sunday School starting at 9:00 AM. Refreshments will continue to follow the Worship Service.

Voters Meeting We will have our Voter's meeting on Sunday, May 5, 2024 after Sunday Service. A potluck lunch will be served prior to the start of the meeting. If you have any specific item you would like added to the agenda, please provide the information to myself or Cynthia.

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 April/May is canned yellow and green vegetables. 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.

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> <i>(White)</i> Voter's Meeting and Potluck Noon Pastor Weier	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> <i>(White)</i> Pastor Truax	13	14 LWML Bible Study 1:00 p.m.	15	16	17	18
19 <i>The Day of Pentecost</i> <i>(Red)</i> Pastor Easterling	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>The Holy Trinity</i> <i>(White)</i> Pastor Cooper	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:45 a.m.