

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,

Our focus for November is “Stewardship”

In 1 Timothy 6:7 we read, “Christian stewardship begins with the understanding that all we have is God’s and that we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world”.

In November we have the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, where we spend time with family and friends. This is a time where we reflect on how thankful we are for all the many blessings God has bestowed on us.

God has and continues to bless our congregation. Although the call we extended to Pastor Mueller was declined, our God has that person selected to be our next Pastor and with pray he will lead him to our congregation. As we continue to work through the call process, we have been blessed with many Pastors that lead our Worship Service. Our Adult Bible class continues to examine and review the book of Genesis. What a great opportunity to revisit God’s creation. Our Church attendance continues to prosper with visitors each week. Our Friday night dinner was shared with approximately 70 attendees. So, as you can see, we are truly blessed.

The renovation of the church building continues with the new arrangement of the sanctuary scheduled to start in November. My “Thanks” to all of the volunteers who have donated their time and talents to support this project.

Our Voter’s meeting will be held on Sunday, November 17, 2024. This is an important meeting as we discuss plans for the 2025 calendar year. Please make plans to attend.

May God continue to guide St. Matthew.

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

Yours in Christ,

Tim

Stewardship

The consequences of shallow thankfulness

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, "Tell grandma thank you." This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: "Look at me! Aren't I special?" No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

For words that speak at variance with deeds ...

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

*Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways
unmindful of a broken brother's need ...*

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!

Stewardship Chair
Donald Shotzberger

LWML ALL ABOUT MITES

Mite boxes are used to collect money for missions. These funds help to further God's kingdom through the mission grants that are selected by delegates at District and National Conventions every two years. From the funds 25% goes for National projects, 50% goes to Gulf States District (that's us) for their projects and 25% goes for District Operations.

So far St. Matthew has donated \$ 448.08 this year and that money is going to help people all around the world to spread the message about JESUS. St. Matthew could also apply for a District grant to cover some of the Wish list items that we might have. If you wish pick up a Mite Box from the table and put it where you see it.

SHARE THE LOVE



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



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ST. MATTHEW'S WEB PAGE

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*To those celebrating
we wish you a*

Blessed and Happy Birthday

1	David Parker
3	Deborah Dodge
4	Beatrice Cargill
6	Don Newcomb
12	Alexander Myers
16	Theresa Struss
24	Michelle Slade
28	Chris Rehmann
30	Paula Chastain Cathy Mason

Blessed and Happy Anniversary

9	Jack and Portia Perino
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*(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.

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.

ENVELOPES If anyone needs envelopes, please see Rosie or Cynthia. Using envelopes allows for a tax statement at the end of the year for everyone with envelopes.

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 November is flour, sugar, and corn meal. 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, egg cartons, and Mardi Gras beads are on the table in the first hall pass the foyer. These items will be donated to charity.

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <i>All Saints' Day</i> <i>(White)</i> Pastor Cooper Daylight Savings Time Ends	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 <i>Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>(Green)</i> Council Meeting Pastor Weier	11 Veteran's Day	12 LWML Meeting 1:00 p.m.	13	14	15	16
17 <i>Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>(Green)</i> Voters Meeting & Potluck Pastor Truax	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <i>Last Sunday of the church Year</i> <i>(White)</i> Pastor DeSanto	25	26	27	28 	29	30

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Worship 10:00 a.m.