

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 October is “Live by Faith”

In Proverbs 3: 5-6 we read, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

As September ends, we reflect on how God has blessed our congregation with providing us with 3 Pastors that were interested in interviewing to be our next Pastor. Last Sunday, you unanimously voted to extend the call to Pastor Mueller. On Monday, I contacted him to inform him of St. Matthew’s decision. We will continue to pray for God’s guidance for Pastor Mueller and his family, as well as our congregation.

The Adult Bible class began a new series with studying the Old Testament. We have started with the book of Genesis. This is a great opportunity to review God’s creation. Would ask that you prayerfully consider joining us on Sunday morning.

The renovation of the church building continues with installing new flooring where there is carpet, painting walls and replacing baseboards. At Sunday’s Voters’ meeting it was agreed to change the arrangement of the Sanctuary. We will move the altar to the north wall once the 2 exit doors have been removed and will align the pews to face north.

May God continue to provide you guidance in your life. May God also continue to guide St. Matthew, as we continue to go through the call process.

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

Yours in Christ,

Tim

Stewardship

“The Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”¹ Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
that shows Your message ever new and near.

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren’t actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

¹ Martin Luther, “Preface to Georg Rhau’s Symphoniae iucundae,” in Luther’s Works, ed. Jaroslav Pelikan, Helmut T. Lehmann, and Christopher Boyd Brown, vol. 53 (Philadelphia and St. Louis: Fortress and Concordia Publishing House, 1955–), 321–322.

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” God’s love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord’s House. At the Lord’s Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!

Stewardship Chair
Donald Sholtzberger



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***

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*To those celebrating
we wish you a*

Blessed and Happy Birthday

1	Sayo Byrd
12	Larry Hildestal
18	Kyle East
19	Donna Johnston
26	Mike Byrd
29	Bonnie Wright

Blessed and Happy Anniversary

10	Al and Cheryl Philo
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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.

OKTOBERFEST On October 20, Bethel Lutheran Church (2521 Pass Rd, Biloxi) will have their annual Oktoberfest lunch and silent auction. Lunch will be served at Noon. There will be a free will offering for lunch. A sign up sheet is on the table in the foyer. Please sign up if attending by October 6. If you have questions, please ask Cynthia

ENVELOPES If anyone needs envelopes, please see Rosie or Cynthia. Using envelopes allows Sally to print 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 October is cash for perishables and grits, oatmeal and cereal. 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.

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Workday 9:00 a.m.
6 <i>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> Pastor Cooper	7	8 LWML Meeting 1:00 p.m.	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> Council Meeting Pastor Truax	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <i>Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> Pastor Cooper	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>Reformation Sunday (Red)</i> Pastor Linck	28	29	30	31		

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