

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,

Hopefully everyone had an enjoyable summer, whether it was taking a vacation, spending time with friends and family, or maybe working on a home project. As we begin September, we will celebrate Labor Day on the first Monday of the month. I found this quote that is one example of why we celebrate Labor Day. It is, *“to honor the nation’s workers and their contributions to the well-being of the country”*. When I read this quote, it reminds me of how our members contribute their time and talents to St. Matthew for the well-being of our Church.

We continue to make progress with remodeling the interior of our Church. I want to “Thank” everyone that has and continues to donate their time to support this effort.

The support of our Pastor’s for Sunday Worship Service continues to be a Blessing at St. Matthew. We have September and October schedules completed. I also want to “Thank” those who are supporting our music for Sunday Service.

I found this Bible verse for September and it exemplifies how God continues to guide our congregation, as we work through the call process for our next Pastor and, also, how we resolve our opening for an organist / pianist.

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me,” (Philippians 4:13)

This bible verse for September is perfect because it reminds us that no matter what life brings our way, we can always get through it with the help of God! He will be by your side with each step you take.

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

Yours in Christ,

Tim

Stewardship

Stewards, Called to Forgiveness

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the *Lutheran Service Book* has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB* 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.

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



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

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*To those celebrating
we wish you a*

Blessed and Happy Birthday

4	Leroy East
9	Linette Cooper
18	Rick Morrissey
20	Carla Harbin
22	Maryelizabeth Rehmman
26	Kaitlyn Goetsch
28	Martha Gibson

Blessed and Happy Anniversary

20	Leroy and Shirley East
26	Cody & Kaitlyn Goetsch

*(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.)*
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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.

CHURCH COUNCIL meeting to be on Sunday, September 15, 2024 after church service.

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 September is cash for perishables and pasta/rice, dry beans. 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.

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> Pastor Cooper	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 <i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> Pastor Linck	9	10 LWML Meeting 1:00 p.m.	11	12	13	14
15 <i>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> Council Meeting Pastor Cooper	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 <i>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> Pastor DeSanto	23	24	25	26	27	28 LWML Fall Rally @ St. Matthew 9:30 a.m.
29 <i>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> <i>5th Sunday Potluck</i> Pastor Linck	30					

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