

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter January, 2012

## *The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517*

From the Pastor...



### *Signs for our future...*

I continue to think it is important to let you know when I see good signs for our future. I have said before that there are people who have indicated their interest in joining us as members, and that remains true. If you were with us the Sunday before Christmas you saw some children who had not been in church before; they sang for us all, and it was a very happy and exciting experience for them.

Add to that good news is the attendance we have seen. Our Saturday night year-round experiment is working. An average of two dozen is holding strong, and maybe it will increase with time. If you look at the church sanctuary on Sunday morning, and mentally put two dozen more people there from Saturday night, you have a full church. It has been that way now, week after week. Our worship services have wonderful music, and let's not forget or take for granted our media resources.

The stewardship forms show an increased commitment from the congregation to the work of the church. That means the Council can actually propose some of the things it has already discussed—things which are hoped to make us even stronger in this community. The Annual Meeting will be the time and place to set in motion these prayerful plans for 2012.

### *Annual Meeting...*

As our Constitution says, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held the third Sunday in January, (which in 2012 will be the 15<sup>th</sup>) and it will follow the worship service. Time: 11:00 A.M. All confirmed members are voting members if they have kept their membership current. Please come and take part in the Annual Meeting. It is important that together we approve our plans for 2012...

### *Men's Group Going Strong...*

Each Wednesday a number of the men of our church are joined by some friends from other churches at the Midwest Medical Center. We have breakfast, visit, study the Scriptures, and pray together. This is a truly valuable time for all. Some moments are serious, and others are humorous. There is now in the group an interest in securing some

Lutefisk for everyone to sample. We will keep you informed as to what develops. (Lutefisk is a traditional Scandinavian food, fish cured in lye. It is the stuff of legend in Minnesota where Lutheran churches still have Lutefisk dinners.) Some love Lutefisk, and others say it is terrible. If the Lutefisk really is as bad as some of those reports, we will be in the best place we could—just a few yards away from an emergency room.

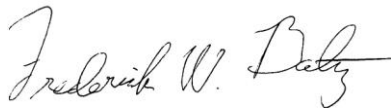
***Women Keep Studying and Serving...***

The Women of the Church also continue their study of the Scriptures and their fellowship. This is a way that they grow in the Lord. And, the ongoing work of quilt production for Lutheran World Relief happens the first two Monday's of each month.

***ILT and Us...***

Our church has a unique relationship with the Institute of Lutheran Theology. The Institute is a seminary that offers courses by means of the internet. This is a new way to train pastors. I hope every member and friend of our church knows that we work with ILT to help in the training of tomorrow's church leaders. I am currently the Interim President of ILT, and that means ILT makes a contribution toward our church that is significant for us. The courses we can offer our members here is another means of blessing from our association with ILT. We will see what the year brings for an ILT student involvement in this congregation. We are currently looking for those who might wish to serve and learn here.

I believe God is ready to bless us richly in 2012 if we continue in our attempts to be faithful to the Gospel.

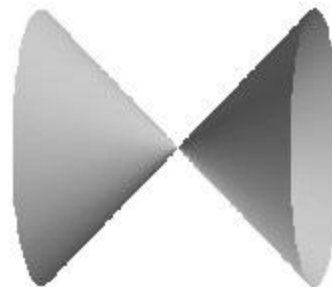
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frederick W. Baly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Galena Illinois  
Vice President's Message

**OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN**

*Of the Father's love begotten,  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!*

Prudentius, 4th Century A.D. ...



The words above are part of a hymn the Choir sang Christmas Eve. They date back to the fourth century. The double cone above, for me, is an illustration of Christ's life. Christ's birth, which we recently celebrated, and His death, which we will celebrate in April, are THE focal point of history.

The axis, left to right, is time. The point where the two cones meet is the point in time Christ was on this earth. We know from the Old Testament, the cone on the left is all the history and prophecies that pointed to Christ's life as a time when all things Old would become all things New. The cone on the right represents all that has happened as a consequence of Christ's life and death. *“From all the things that have been to all the things that are, and shall be – evermore and evermore.”*

You are on a line moving left to right in time as well. Your time-line is inside the cone on the right – enveloped by Christ's coming, death and resurrection. Christ's salvation radiates out in an ever expanding ring. We, as members of Christ's Church, are enclosed within the expanding cone of Christ's salvation. We hope, some day, all will be within.

The double cone also illustrates a point in the life of St Matthew as a Church. One way or another, over 150 years of history brought us to the point of the congregation's decision to become something new, an independent Lutheran congregation within the Lutheran Church in Mission for Christ (LCMC). Yet in doing so, we return to a long history as an independent church. It was a difficult decision and it has had its consequences. The cone on the right, in this case, has yet to be determined. Please pray for and support the new Council that will in the new year and coming years, direct our actions and outreach. In order to fulfill our mission we must as a congregation grow. We must add new members and our particular focus is on young families who represent the long term future of this and

the larger Church of Christ.

Finally, look at yourself. To the left is the past, and all the possibilities that became by choice or accident, and which brings you to the present moment – this point in time. To the right, all the possibilities that will be by choice or accident, and what lies in your future. Will your cone be within the cone of Christ's salvation? Within the life of St Matthew and within that larger cone, can your actions make the cone wider to include others?

*“He is Alpha and Omega; He the source and ending He.”*

John Klinkner, Council Vice President

## *Womens Bible Study Group News*

The meeting will be January 5, 2012 at the home of Jeannine Steinle. The time is 12:30 until about 2:00 PM. We are still using the writings of Paul for our study; if you do not have a book we will share. While the miracle of Christ's birth is still fresh in our hearts it is a good time for learning and fellowship. If you need directions to Jeannine's home call 815-777-2203. Come if you can, all are welcome.

# Special Focus Ministry:

For those who may not know, we continually hold up a special ministry in addition to the regular work we support. We call this our Special Focus Ministry. We formerly called this our Ministry of the Month, but many times the focus lasted more than four weeks, so we chose this new name. Beginning December 31, through February 5, we will be supporting the Jo Daviess County Workshop. The Workshop is asking for help due to funding cuts from the state of Illinois and increased workload. The Workshop needs our help to continue providing services to their clientele.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Hello, my name is Amy Farrey. I have been a member of the St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Galena since I was probably a baby. I grew up attending church with my family, going to Sunday School and Bible School, and eventually teaching both. I was also a member of the youth group and the choir. Unfortunately, after I started working, I worked every Sunday and didn't attend church for many years. My daughter Izabella changed things for me. I have since returned to church and I am now teaching Sunday School again. Each Sunday we have a specific lesson and I try to come up with a craft and snack that relates to our lesson for the week. Currently, we only have 3 children who attend Sunday School. When I was a child attending and when I was teaching Sunday School, there was at least 10 kids in each age group class. It is very sad to me to see how times have changed this way. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining us, I would love to have them attend. Come check it out. We'll have a blast.

*Amy Farrey*

## **YOUTH NEWS**

Reminding you of our youth group gathering dates:

- Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup>, 4 to 5 PM
- Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>, 4 to 5 PM

**Try to come and bring a friend or two.**

If parents or youth have any questions, feel free to contact  
Neal Sauerberg 319-331-6130 or  
Anne-Marie Sauerberg 319-321-8532

## 2012 Budget Planning

The 2012 draft budget was determined by 2011 actual/projected, and by combining known pledges with actual 2011 giving for those who did not pledge. A comparison of 2011 and 2012 for income and expense follows.

### Income

	<u>2011 Budget</u>	<u>2012 Proposed Budget</u>	<u>2011 Projected</u>
Bible Alive	\$1,500	\$900	\$1,500
Envelopes	110,964	108,096	112,353
ILT	0	24,000	6,000
Focus Ministry	3,600	3,600	3,208
Other Category	<u>26,414</u>	<u>24,402*</u>	<u>20,346</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$142,478</b>	<b>\$160,998</b>	<b>\$143,407</b>

\*Includes \$1,000 from Golf Outing

### Expenses

Advertising	\$1,696	2,092	1,800
Benevolence	10,620	12,320	10,942
Bldg & Util	13,996	15,928	14,008
Contract Services	97,967	98,815	97,648
Intern	0	9,000	0
Education	2,290	2,600	2,536
Evangelism	140	1,000	4
Coffee Hr	240	156	100
Fund Cap Imp	120	50	0
Mystery Book	0	55	56
Gifts	20	60	54
Housing Allow Repay	5,040	5,040	5,020
Special Projects	1,140**	1,220**	404
Office Supplies	5,172	5,988	5,933
Stewardship	772	725	400
Sunday School	300	200	49
Worship	2,600	2,700	2,115
Youth	<u>300</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>2,096</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$142,413</b>	<b>\$160,949</b>	<b>\$143,165</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$65</b>	<b>\$49</b>	<b>\$242</b>

\*Includes \$9,000 for an intern.

\*\*Spec Projects include-Pancake Supper, Bible School, Confirmation, Picnic, and "Other".

## **Key Elements of the 2012 Budget Proposal**

### **Income**

- 1. Envelope** giving is decreased by 3.8% from the 2011 year end projection. This is due to former members leaving the congregation during 2011, and the expectation that additional giving unit(s) will leave during 2012.
- The Church will receive an annual donation of \$24,000 from the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT). During 2011, the Church received \$2,000 each of the last 3 months. This donation is the result of Pastor Baltz's Presidency of the ILT.
- 3. Overall income** rises from \$143,165 to \$160,998 primarily due to the donation from the ILT.

### **Expenses**

- 1. Advertising** has been increased by 16% in order to continue spreading the news of our congregation.
- 2. Benevolence**-Since our congregation is now aligned with LCMC, our monthly benevolence donation is \$100. In addition, council is considering sponsoring two "sister congregations", providing \$100 per "sister congregation" each month. Also expensed from this category is net income generated from the annual Pancake Supper, Birdies for Charity and \$1000 from the Golf Outing. Our total benevolence for 2012 is pegged at 11.1% of envelope giving. Our 2011 goal was 9.6%.
- 3. Total building and utilities** is increased by 13.7% as we anticipate increased energy costs. Included in this category is the once per year cleaning of the organ.
- 4. Contract Services** is increased by 10.4% in the event the council and congregation approve a call for an intern. A portion of the income received from the ILT would be used to pay for an intern.
- 5. The Evangelism** category includes funds for the production of a new Church directory and the opportunity to further our outreach in the community.
- 6. The Housing Allowance Repay** continues at \$420 per month or \$5,040 for the year. These are funds set aside to repay our investments resulting from building the addition to the Church in 2006.
- 7. Special Projects** includes expenses for a Church picnic, Confirmation/Baccalaureate Service, Pancake Supper, and Summer Bible School.
- 8. Worship and Music** is increased by nearly \$600 as we find new media for our new audio video system and new music options for the Praise Band.

**9. Youth Expenses** rise by \$900 as we continue to find opportunities to keep our youth involved in church activities.

**10. Summary:** At the annual meeting in January, a detailed 2012 budget will be presented and it will include not only 2012 expectations, but also the year-to-date income and expenses from 2011.

## **JANUARY CELEBRATION CORNER**

### **Birthdays**

1 John Prellberg  
15 Kris Korte  
16 Kim Miller  
18 Gordon Montgomery  
18 VJ Heid  
20 Jane Klinkner  
24 Chuck Korte  
26 Fred Baltz  
29 Bill Fitch  
30 Lilly Streich  
31 Paul Muehleip

### **Weddings**

11 Robert & Bobbi Johnson  
31 Pete (Marion) & Ruth Schmidt

## **The Flower Chart Has Returned**

The chart will be on the bulletin board in the entry way. If you would like to donate a flower or plant in memory of a loved one, or some other occasion, sign up the date you wish to commemorate on the chart. Please only use the pen provided as anything else will ruin the chart.

## THOSE WHO SERVE IN JANUARY 2012

### USHER

1/ 7 Bruce Etzel/Jim Moser  
1/ 8 Dale and Rita Wohlers  
1/14 Bill and Elaine Fitch  
1/15 John and Jane Klinkner  
1/21 Norm Muehleip/Bob Kempert  
1/22 Mike and Deb Hyland  
1/28 John and Jean Prellberg  
1/29 Marilyn Holland/Colleen Stephens

### LECTOR

Jan Etzel  
Rita Wohlers  
Connie Consedine  
John Klinkner  
Colleen Stephens  
Deb Hyland  
John Prellberg  
Dale Knipschild

### ACOLYTES

1/ 8 Erica Pleau and  
Alex Montgomery  
1/15 Megan Harris  
  
1/22 Ethan Baltz  
1/29 George Daniel

### COMMUNION SERVER

1/15 Fran Rogers  
1/16 Dick and Edie Jones  
1/28 Jim Moser  
1/29 Ken and Fabi Voigt

### COUNTERS

1/ 8 Jeannine/Ruth  
1/15 Ruth/Connie  
1/22 Marion/Ruth  
1/29 Colleen /Ruth