



**St. Matthew  
Lutheran Church  
Newsletter  
September 2011**

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

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**From the Pastor...**

***Breaking News!!!*** New Schedule for Fall!!! I write this the morning after the August Council meeting where the Council adopted a schedule change that will go into effect immediately after Labor Day. On a trial basis we will offer the Saturday worship service *through the year*. On Sunday there will be *one service at 10:00*, with the Adult Class at 9:00, Sunday School at 10:00, and

Confirmation at 11:00. The Council hopes this new schedule will be helpful to many. Again:

**Saturday    Worship at 5:30 P.M. continues**  
**Sunday      Adult Class at 9:00 A.M.**  
**Worship at 10:00 A.M. continues**  
**Confirmation at 11:00 A.M.**

This summer brought great tragedy and sadness to our church and our community. But now the Fall begins, and we begin anew with hope in the Resurrection, and trust in God. Each of us is called upon to be an ambassador for Christ. Each of us represents him and his Kingdom to others at all times. May we gather each Sunday to hear the Word and receive the Lord’s Supper, and then go forth to speak and to work. Please be aware of all

the information that follows in this newsletter. Help where you can; encourage where you can; give as you can.

**In the Youth Department...** I am very happy to tell you that Neal and Anne-Marie Sauerberg have graciously consented to work with our youth this year. We have had wonderful help from parents last year, like Rebecca McIntyre and Tracy Pleau. Now Neal and Anne-Marie have stepped forward to be involved in this vital ministry as well. I told them that they each have much to offer to the youth of our church, and the youth beyond our church that we are trying to reach. Look for an exciting schedule of youth events to appear soon!

**The Little Learners' Preschool** has held its open house for the coming year. The number of new children coming is impressive! Once again the Parish Hall will be alive with the sounds of many little ones as they play and learn important lessons in this safe place. I would remind everyone that Little Learners' is a Christian preschool; the faith dimension of daily life is not ignored here, but recognized. We all help to enable this work as we host Little Learners' Preschool, even if we aren't present. What a great outreach! There are members of our church today who entered through the preschool. May there soon be more!

**Come with us in October!** Our realignment with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ means that in October this congregation will be welcomed at the Annual Gathering, to be held in Des Moines from October 2-5. Wouldn't it be wonderful if a large number of us went to Des Moines to meet more than a thousand others in LCMC? The theme this year is: <sup>6</sup> *I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.* <sup>7</sup> *So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.* (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

To register for the LCMC Annual Gathering simply go to:  
<http://www.lcmc.net/annualgathering.html>. You will also find there a list of hotels in the area.

Here is the schedule for the event:

## 2011 LCMC Annual Gathering Agenda Growing in Christ



**Sunday, October 2**

4:00 Registration  
5:30 Dinner at Polk County Conventions Complex (The Plex)  
7:00 Opening worship service: *Rev. Bill Bohline*  
8:30 Dessert and fellowship time

**Monday, October 3** (Breakfast at hotels)

8:00 Registration  
8:30 Singing and Bible study led by *Rev. Elisa Ashley*  
9:00 Opening and welcome  
9:15 Introduction of Board and Staff  
9:30 Keynote Speaker: *Rev. Greg Ogden*  
10:30 Break  
11:00 Keynote Speaker: *Rev. Greg Ogden*  
12:00 Lunch at The Plex  
1:30 Singing  
1:45 Intro of District Leaders / New Congregations & Pastors / Seminarians  
2:15 State of the Association  
3:15 Opening Business Session  
3:45 Introduction to Breakouts  
4:00 Break  
4:30 Breakouts 1  
5:30 Area Caucuses  
6:00 District gatherings for dinner at The Plex (optional) or area restaurants

**Tuesday, October 4** (Breakfast at hotels)

8:30 Singing and Bible Study led by *Rev. David Preus*  
9:00 Keynote Speaker: *Rev. T J Anderson*  
10:00 Break  
10:30 Keynote Speaker: *Rev. T J Anderson*  
11:30 International Focus  
12:00 Lunch at The Plex  
1:15 Singing  
1:30 Business / Anniversaries / Milestones  
2:30 Breakouts 2  
3:30 Break  
4:00 Breakouts 3  
5:00 Move back into session  
5:30 Area caucuses and election of Board members  
6:00 Dinner at Plex (optional) or Evening out  
7:00 Drama presented by *AWAKEN*

**Wednesday, October 5** (Breakfast at hotels)

8:30 Singing and Bible Study led by *Rev. Carl Billings*  
9:00 Keynote Speaker: *Rev. Gemechis Buba*  
10:00 Break  
10:30 Closing worship service with Holy Communion: *Rev. Jaynan Clark*

The **breakout sessions** mentioned above will cover a variety of subjects of interest to Christians. Here are just a few of the forty-eight to be offered: *Healing Prayer and the Theology of the Cross*; *Women of the Word*; *LCMC Lutheran Men*; *Seminarians and Prospective Seminarians*; *Stewardship*; *Thriving in a Small Congregation*; and *Islam*.

Keynote speakers are:



**Rev. Greg Ogden**

Greg Ogden is currently the Executive Pastor of the Grow Ministry at Christ Church of Oak Brook, IL. in the Chicago western suburbs. From 1998-2002, Greg served as Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Fuller Theological Seminary and Associate Professor of Lay Equipping and Discipleship. Prior to coming to Fuller, Greg enjoyed 24 years in pastoral ministry, primarily within Presbyterian churches, but most recently as Senior Pastor at the Saratoga Federated Church in the Silicon Valley, California. He is the author of five books: *Unfinished Business: Returning the Ministry to the People of God* (Zondervan, 2003), *Discipleship Essentials: A Guide to Building Your Life in Christ* (InterVarsity Press, 1998), *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time* (Intervarsity Press, 2003); with co-author, Daniel Meyer, *Leadership Essentials: Shaping Vision, Multiplying Influence, Defining Character* (InterVarsity Press, 2007) and finally *The Essential Commandment: A Guide to Loving God and Others* (to be released in November, 2011). He is pleased to have been married to Lily for 42 years and has one married daughter who with her husband are practicing pediatricians in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Ogdens are now obnoxious grandparents to their 4 year granddaughter, Claire and a 2 year old grandson, Dylan.

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**Rev. T J Anderson**

TJ Anderson, has been in full time ministry for over 30 years. For half that time he was a lay professional serving congregations in many ways. He has developed a passion to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through speaking, preaching and in conversation. He is committed to helping the Christian church reclaim the foundations of Discipleship. TJ is convinced that the purpose of the church has two primary missions. The first one is, to reach unbelievers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The second, to move Christians into being Disciples of Jesus.

Most of the world does not know or has experienced Jesus in a trusting relationship. TJ believes that it is time for the church to step up and engage in the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to the world.

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## **Rev. Dr. Gemechis D. Buba**

The Rev. Dr. Gemechis D. Buba is currently serving as the Missions Director of the North American Lutheran Church. He is originally from East Africa, Ethiopia and is currently living in Columbus OH with his wife Nassisse Baro Tumsa and Labsi Gemechis.

Dr. Buba received a Bachelor of Theology with high distinction from Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, where he served as a Professor for two years. After working on Masters of Theology in Church History in the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology he moved to the United States for further studies. In 2003 he received Masters of Divinity and Masters of Arts in Christian Education from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA. In 2006 Dr. Buba earned a Doctorate Degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, specializing in Missional Leadership.

Ordained in 2001, he has served as a Seminary professor, mission developer, Senior Pastor, Vice President of Southeastern Black Lutheran Pastors' Conference, an assistant to the Bishop of Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and two term president of the world wide union of Oromo Evangelical Churches Inc. founder and president of Leadership Development Systems Inc.

Dr. Buba have led, chaired and lectured on multiple international events through revivals, leadership development conventions, theological conferences, evangelistic gatherings, church assemblies and academic forums.

He has traveled extensively and served across the nations of Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Germany, England, Norway, Sweden, USA, Australia and New Zealand. In his journey across this globe he has ministered the Gospel of Jesus Christ in three languages: English, Oromo and Amharic. He has authored and translated numerous articles, booklets, books and produced materials for Christian educational use.

Above all, he is proud to be called a Child of God, which is the highest privilege and authority in the Kingdom of God.

**To register for the LCMC Annual Gathering simply go to:**

**<http://www.lcmc.net/annualgathering.html>. You will also find there a list of hotels in the area.**

***Word at Work...*** Now, here is another opportunity for our members and friends. The Institute of Lutheran Theology is again offering its Word at Work classes to its Designated Teaching Centers. We are one of these DTC's. You can find the complete list of these courses at <http://www.ilt.org/wordatwork.html>. Here are some of them: *Gospel of Mark; Lutheran Church History; Defending Your Faith*. We can bring these classes to you here at the church for no charge. If you would like to pay a fee, you can even have them delivered to your home via internet. If you are interested, please let me know so I can arrange any course for you.

**“Studio Audience”**...One of the Word at Work courses will emanate from right here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church to churches across North America. It is entitled: “How God Grows Churches.” This is a course in basic evangelism offered free by ILT. I will teach it, and now there are more than fifty churches that have arranged to take it. This class isn’t just for pastors, but for everyone. It would be great if you would come and be part of the class. All of us are supposed to share our faith. This class is designed to help with that. “How God Grows Churches” will be offered the last four Sunday nights in October from our church from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. You don’t have to register; just come.

**Free Old Testament Course**... I will again be offering a college-level course on the Old Testament meeting each Tuesday night for fourteen weeks from 6:30 to 8:30. This course is open to all our members and friends for free. It will meet in the Planetarium Conference Room starting August 30.

• **Adult Class lineup...**

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• On September 11 our Adult Class will reconvene around some engaging topics. First will be Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace. The story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German clergyman of great distinction, who actively opposed Hitler and the Nazis. His convictions cost him his life.

• Then we will turn to how Christians face loss. C. S. Lewis Through the Shadowlands. This film is about the agonizing spiritual crisis of C. S. Lewis when his wife died from cancer. The love, grief, pain, and sorrow were so shattering to Lewis that his basic Christian beliefs, magnificently communicated in his many books, were now called into serious doubt.



## Special Focus Ministry...Drought in East Africa



**Emergency Alert - Updated August 24, 2011**

### **Background**

The worst drought in 60 years is creating severe food and water shortages for millions of impoverished people in the Horn of Africa. Combined with ongoing conflict in many countries, the region is facing an urgent, life-threatening humanitarian crisis.

More than 12.4 million people in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti are affected by drought conditions which have led to widespread food shortages. Famine has been declared in three additional regions of Somalia — Afgoye, Mogadishu and Middle Shabelle — joining Bakool and Lower Shabelle for a total of five famine declared regions in Somalia.

The lack of rain, which began in late 2010, has led to several failed crop cycles, the death of livestock and the loss of agricultural livelihoods. Left with few resources to provide food for themselves and their families, and displaced by ongoing conflict and fighting, people are fleeing their home lands in Somalia for camps in Ethiopia and Kenya.

The camps, built to hold 90,000 refugees, are currently hosting over 400,000 people and receiving more than 1,500 new arrivals each day. Many of the new arrivals have walked long distances and arrive malnourished and in poor physical condition. Children are particularly affected; reports indicate that 30 to 40 percent of the children arriving to Dadaab are acutely malnourished.

Lutheran World Relief has worked in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation in the Dadaab camps since 2008, with support from the United States Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. These ongoing programs link vulnerable refugees to social services, provide shelter and promote security within the camps. In addition, LWR and LWF address the needs of neighboring communities through sanitation programs.

### **LWR and partners are responding**

LWR committed an initial \$500,000 to immediate response efforts to support the work of its partner, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Kenya and Ethiopia. In Kenya, LWR is working with LWF to expand its work in the Dadaab camps to ensure the reception of new arrivals as well as the provision of water and other critically needed supplies to families in and around the Dadaab camps.

In Ethiopia, LWF is distributing food in drought affected communities, providing supplementary nutrition for young children and new mothers, training farmers to improve natural resource management and agriculture and providing farm tools to begin recovery efforts.

In addition, LWR continues to explore the possibility of sending Quilts and Kits to this region. The fall Ingathering season is beginning soon. Visit [lwr.org/getinvolved](http://lwr.org/getinvolved) to get started making Quilts and Kits and to check our [Ingathering Map](#) to find a drop-off location near you.

While urgent humanitarian assistance is required today, strategies to safeguard and build up livelihoods — [sustainable development](#) — will help save even more lives in the long term. LWR will continue to build the capacity of our local partners and communities to help them become less vulnerable when future droughts occur.

**Men's Bible Study Breakfast** continues each Wednesday at the Midwest Medical Center.  
Time: 8:00 A.M.

**Women's Bible Study** continues each first Thursday of the month. This month a potluck is to follow. Time: 12:30, place: the church.



**Coming soon...** Connections magazine. Look in the Welcome Center for copies of "Connections" that will arrive soon. They are free for the taking. When you're done, please consider bringing your copy back. Otherwise, keep it and use it yourself. If you like the magazine you may subscribe to it. This magazine replaces "The Lutheran" for us. Each issue is devoted to a theme like youth, stewardship, missions, evangelism, Mormonism, etc. It is truly an attractive magazine that I'm sure you will like.

**Good-bye, Kevin and Carol...** Kevin and Carol Martin are moving to Georgia. (That's a long way from Canada!) Kevin has helped us with the electronic part of the newsletters you have read these past months. Both Carol and Kevin have helped in other ways in the church as well. We will miss them, and we wish them God's blessings.

### *Attention all singers!*

*Choir will resume Thursday, Sept. 8 at 7:15. Rehearsal will be in the church for about an hour. Come hear some new music and welcome our newest members. Anyone interested in singing is welcome.*

*Questions can be directed to Jan Etzel at 815-777-3795. Hope to see you there!*

*Jan*

## President's Message



Ruth, Kevin, and Ken are not happy with me as I am very tardy turning in this message. Summer flew by for me at work, in my personal life, my family life, and at church. Prior to writing this message I reviewed the message from last September. Last year at this time our church was about to enter into many educational programs including “Why Lutherans are Concerned.” Today, our church has completed our study and made the decision to change church body affiliation. We are now a member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and the transition is complete. So what is next? Are we finished with our studying, are we finished with our education, and are we finished with our mission? The reality is that our mission, studying, and education

have just begun.

In the August council meeting your council agreed now is the time to move forward, to make mission associations, to introduce programs, and to grow our congregation. Involvement is an important part of enabling change in any organization. I encourage everyone to become involved at some level in our congregation

As School starts, fall approaches, and schedules change, new and exciting associations and programs will be introduced at St. Matthew. A series of temple talks will introduce opportunities for involvement and participation. Look for ways that you can contribute to our work in Galena and around the globe. We have freedom to make our own decisions how we want to impact our community, nation, and the world. It is an exciting time to be part of this congregation.

Don Pleau

## **Celebration Corner**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Julie Faber
- 3 Norman Muehleip  
Brian Simpson
- 13 Pam Johnson
- 16 Rebecca McIntyre
- 17 Bret Johnson
- 28 Thelma Hicks  
Kim White
- 29 Robert Johnson

### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

- 16 Chuck & Carolyn Stork
- 18 Brian & Marie Simpson
- 29 Gordon & Karen Montgomery

### **All women interested in a Bible study group**

The group will meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 12:30 in the fellowship hall at St. Matthew. The September meeting will be a pot luck to get acquainted followed by the Bible Study.

For questions or directions call Maureen Knipschild 563-599-8782

**QUILT TYING:** 1st and 2nd Mondays of each month at 12:30 in the upper level of St. Matthew. The quilts are assembled for Lutheran Relief and other relief efforts locally. Nothing to bring everything is provided.

The school kits and personal care kits will be collected until mid September. It's not too late to help in this effort if you have not done so already.

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday thru Friday 1:00-4:30

Pastor Baltz is available by appointment by calling 815-777-1134 (church office) or 563-580-7080

## Those who serve in September 2011

USHER		LECTOR	
Sept	3	Jerry Wachter/Bob Kempert	John Prellberg
10:00	4	John & Jane Klinkner	John Klinkner
	10	Bruce Etzel/Jim Moser	Jan Etzel
10:00	11	Dale & Maureen Knipschild	Edie Jones
	17	Bill & Elaine Fitch	Don Pleau
10:00	18	Pam & Roger Johnson	Marilyn Holland
	24	Don Pleau/Bruce Etzel	Colleen Stephens
10:00	25	Dale & Rita Wohlers	Rita Wohlers

ACOLYTES		COMMUNION SERVERS	
Sept	4	Emily White	
	11	Christopher White	5:30 Vic Peters
	18	Kaitlyn Pleau	10:00 Chuck & Carolyn Stork
	25	Erica Pleau	5:30 Fran Rogers
			10:00 John & Jane Klinkner

### OFFERING COUNTERS

Sept.	4	Ruth/Jeannine
	11	Connie/Ruth
	18	Ruth/Marion
	25	Ruth/Colleen

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