



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter October 2020

The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517

[Letter from the Pastor](#)

Greetings and peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord

I love Fall... like A LOT! One of my favorite parts of Fall in the Tri-States is this one bunch of trees. In the east bound lanes of Highway 20 just past the Hirschbach trucking firm stands this giant grouping of trees. You know, the ones that stand just before you enter the first curve on the long and winding road we call 20? In Spring and Summer this stands as Illinois own Green Giant, but in Autumn it blooms into this rich and colorful patch of land that leaves me marveling at God's handiwork. The trees stand firm

throughout the different seasons and, quite honestly, I've been looking to them more and more as examples of living through different seasons.

Each and every day is a new challenge for ourselves and for the church. The region we are in is having some COVID restrictions reinstated, we are still searching for a new permanent church musician, we are still forging our way through limited contact while still being a church at the same time. It is the tough days though that I look to the trees, and just like the trees this church stands firm on the bedrock of the Gospel which has sustained us for generations. Just as the trees go through seasons the church does as well. While this season might be difficult for us, rest assured that together we are the church be it in person or on the screen.

I continue to look into new ways to make church more interactive over the screen, music opportunities and suggestions have been brought to me that I will be bringing to the greater

council. Your council continues to meet and discuss the best way to be church together amidst this time of chaos. The roots of our church run deep. In this season of change we will continue to show the world a colorful and vibrant community that is rooted in the love of Christ.

- Pr. Blake





Income \$4,730.35 Expense \$8,844.68

SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRY GIVING

This message is to suggest a quick and easy way to give to our Special Focus Ministries throughout the year. Our giving to these worthy causes has been very low this year. Since most of our contributions are coming through the mail now, there is an easy way to split your contributions



between regular offering and our special monthly designated causes. On the bottom of each regular Sunday envelope are lines for Regular Offering and Special Offering. You can give to both with one check. Simply indicate the amount you wish to give to each category and the donations for Special Offering will be sent at the end of each month.

There is no need to send one envelope with multiple weekly offerings. Donations are listed as received on the day they are taken to the bank, so multiple weekly envelopes in one mailing are all counted as given on the same day. If you mail a donation monthly, you can write the donation amount on one check

President's letter - October, 2020

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what
depths of peace When fears are stilled, when strivings cease My
Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

“ In Christ Alone” by, Stuart Townend Dear Friends,

These beautiful words are the first verse of the hymn “In Christ Alone” by Stuart Townend. This has become one of Jan’s favorite Reformation hymns as it strongly reinforces Martin Luther’s mantra, “Here I stand!”. In October we look forward to the winding down of the church calendar and the celebration of the Reformation and the birth of the Lutheran Church. Reformation Sunday falls on October 25 this year.

Speaking of important dates - please mark your calendars and plan to attend worship *in person* at 9:00am Sunday, October 18. We will have a very important *short* meeting of the congregation immediately following the service that morning. The sole purpose of this meeting is to review and give first approval to the new constitution and bylaws for our congregation. The council has been working on this project for some time and we must have a quorum of 24 voting members present in order

to proceed with ratification at the annual meeting in January. We plan to electronically send a copy of the proposed constitution to every member prior to the vote. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the church office and leave a message and a paper copy will be made available for you about a week before the vote.

The council is asking to hear from you regarding your thoughts on how we should proceed with our Advent and Christmas services. It appears that our Covid distancing will most probably still be an issue at Christmas time so we are looking “outside the box” for ideas on how to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Please share any ideas you may have on to a council member. All ideas will be taken into consideration and discussed. Thank you for your input!

Our worship services continue to be at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings and they can be viewed online after 11:30 am that same day. Sunday School has begun and is meeting with a Zoom format. Services and meetings continue in a method we could never have predicted seven short months ago. Thank the Lord we have the technology to continue this way.

Stay well, church family. I'll see you in church!

Bruce Etzel



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NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY AND DATABASE

We are close to being able to print the new church directory. Everyone should have been contacted to confirm address, email, phone, birthday and anniversary. Some families have been asked to submit more current pictures since the children have grown so much from the time of our last printing.

If you still have updates or pictures to submit, please do so before October 9th. You can send them to the church at contact.stmatt@gmail.com or me at connieconsedine@hotmail.com

A new church database/communication tool called Breeze is close to going live. A team of people have been working for a couple of months to transfer all the data from our old system to this new one. We'll be able to print the directory from Breeze data, keep membership info current, send eblast (email) announcements and text messages. It can also track attendance and print mailing labels. This should make office communication much easier and more efficient plus help us keep current

with new technology.



CELEBRATIONS IN OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS

13 Andrew Plumb
19 Izabella Farrey
23 Jan Etzel
30 Edie Jones



ANNIVERSARIES

06 Jim & Kathleen Stuart
12 Jean & John Prellberg
22 Wayne & Rebecca McIntyre
24 Pam & Roger Johnson



Hey Everyone! Check Out Our New Website

We have a new church website and it looks AMAZING! At our new site you will find videos of recent worship services, the Lutheran Coffee Hour, newsletter, calendar and other useful bits of information.

This is still a work in progress and it may take a couple of months to complete it. All said, it looks new and fresh and a great representation of our church and congregation.





St. Matthew Lutheran Church
127 South High Street,
Galena, IL 61036
www.stmat.net 815-777-1134

Service Times: Sunday at 9:00 am

Where God's work happens 7 days a week. A First Century Church for the Twenty-first Century. See our website for our full calendar of events and follow us on Facebook!

