



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter November 2020

The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517

[Letter from the Pastor](#)

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord

A new phrase I've heard being thrown around is "2020 has been the longest 5 years ever".

This has indeed been a long year packed full of events, yet despite all of it the words of the psalmist comes to mind; "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." As we enter into November we soon will be celebrating Thanksgiving.

While 2020 might not have been the year we expected, God still is providing. God promises to us daily to never leave our side nor

leave us in times of strife. This past month we laid to rest our Sister in Christ, Bernice Edwards.

Over this time of shut down we turn to technology to unite us once more, I will be leading an advent prayer service and book study, your council remains hard at work discerning the direction that God is calling this congregation to follow. As I reflect on the events of the past few weeks, while it has been hard to shut down the physical building once more, it is easy to see God providing for us in our midst. These days are indeed the days the Lord has made and we indeed are invited to rejoice and be glad in them!

I leave you with this prayer

O God of abundance

Just as you provided for your people in the wilderness we thank you for providing for us in our sojourns through the desert. As we go about this season of life not knowing where we go let us ever rest in your peace for there we find all which we need. We

ask this in the name of your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

-Amen

May God's blessing be upon you this month.

-Pr. Blake W. Shipman



President's Letter - November, 2020

Come, you thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home. All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin. God, our maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied. Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

Henry Alford wrote the words to this hymn in 1844. He may have never thought we would be under a government mandate to *not* come together in "God's own temple" to worship and give thanks. At the time of this writing, we are once again under our governor's order to not gather in groups larger than ten people, thereby asking those of you who are able to worship from home. Hopefully this will be a short lived order and we will be able to get together again by Christmas.

While it is almost impossible not to dwell on the pandemic we are experiencing and its many inconveniences, please keep in mind that we still have so much to be thankful for! The Lord has blessed so many of us with good health, an abundance and

variety of food, beautiful homes in which to live, and families whom we love. We are able to use our modern technology to facetime our children and grandchildren and zoom meetings and classrooms that we would otherwise have to eliminate. Families have been given the opportunity to spend more time together and, whether they realize it right now or not, create memories with their children that they will be able to reflect on when those children grow up. The Lord truly is good and worthy of our praise!

The church council is still discussing ideas on how to provide Christmas services this year. I'm hoping there will be both in church and online options for you so that everyone will have an opportunity to worship with their friends and family this Christmas Eve. Please read the December newsletter for guidelines on how to view those services this year.

It has come to my attention that Bev Brandt will be celebrating a very special birthday on November 2. Bev will be 90 years old on that day. She is one of our faithful parishioners who has literally walked to church nearly every weekend until the pandemic hit. Even on the snowiest mornings, unless ice was a factor, Bev would slowly but steadily find her way up the steps to worship. God's blessings to you Bev and Happy Birthday!!

My personal thank you to everyone who attended the congregational meeting on Sunday, October 18. We reached our necessary quorum and the first reading of our new constitution and bylaws was passed with a unanimous vote. Thank you to the council and specifically Bryan Daniel, Charlie Marsden, and John Klinkner for their many hours of work reworking our old constitution and putting the new one together. Thank you gentlemen! The next step in finalizing this constitution is to put it to a vote at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 17, 2021 following the 10:00 worship service.

Speaking of which, ***starting November 1, worship services will begin at 10:00 on Sunday mornings.*** Again, if you are able to view the services online we are encouraging you to do so. This will allow those members without access the ability to “be our 10 people present” and hopefully, give everyone the chance to worship.

I pray you all stay well and that we will all be together again soon.

In his service, Bruce Etzel

Resource list

Lutheran Coffee Hour

Lutheran Coffee Hour is a brand new resource from our church. You will find it at the church website, www.stmat.net. Pastor Blake will be bringing you discussions with different people on a variety of subjects. This will no doubt become a way of reaching many people with relevant topics. Please view it and spread the word.

Sola Publishers

Sola is the printing company that brings dependable resources to us for our use in church and home. Go to solapublishing.com and see what they have for you. Sola also produces the “Connections Magazine” which is available free at our church, and may be subscribed to online.

ILT

The Institute of Lutheran Theology has long been a friend of our church. Their website is ilt.edu. Click on Resources, and you will see lots of them, including Table Talk (in our bulletins each week) and Word at Work Magazine.

LCMC

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ has a website with lots for you: lcmc.net. Simply go there and start to click on all the entries for information of many kinds. Incidentally, the number of congregations is updated and listed there. You may be interested to know that LCMC’s numbers are holding, even with the pandemic. We have 957 churches in the world.

YouTube

Remember our video from a few years back, *They Gave Us the Gospels*? It's still there <https://youtu.be/g0cYgiLHmAY>, and so is

another video about Bible content learning, the *Coffee Cup Bible Method*, <https://youtu.be/03Gx0xzX6Xo>

Patterns of Evidence

If you go to <https://patternsofevidence.com/> you will be at the website for Timothy Mahoney's documentary films. That's where you can find *Red Sea Miracle Part 2*, the film our church and Pastor Baltz appear in. Tim has other resources there as well. You might want to sign up for the Thinker Updates. These are free, and each week you will receive an update about some matter of biblical interpretation or archaeology.

United Churches of Galena Community Food Pantry

<http://galenafoodpantry.org/> can help you answer all your questions about giving or getting help from this ministry in our community.



Here is a resource provided by Pastor Blake for the book he will be using in the upcoming book study he will be hosting.....

"Dietrich Bonhoeffer, one of the most influential Christian martyrs in history, bequeathed to humanity a legacy of theological creativity and spirituality that continues to intrigue people from a variety of backgrounds. **Life Together** gathers Bonhoeffer's 1938 reflections on the character of Christian community, based on the common life that he and his seminarians experienced at the Finkenwalde Seminary and in the Brothers House there. The stimulus for the writing of **Life Together** was the closing of the preacher's seminary at Finkenwalde by the Nazis.

While Bonhoeffer wrote with his own seminary community in mind, he intended **Life Together** to have a more universal impact, and spoke of a mission and responsibility of the church as a whole.

Using the acclaimed Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works English translation and adapted to a more accessible format, this new edition features supplemental material from Victoria J. Barnett and an insightful introduction by Geoffrey B. Kelly to clarify the theological meaning and social importance of Bonhoeffer's work."

https://www.amazon.com/Together-Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Readers-Bonhoeffer-Works/dp/1506402763/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=life+together&qid=1603917453&sr=8-2



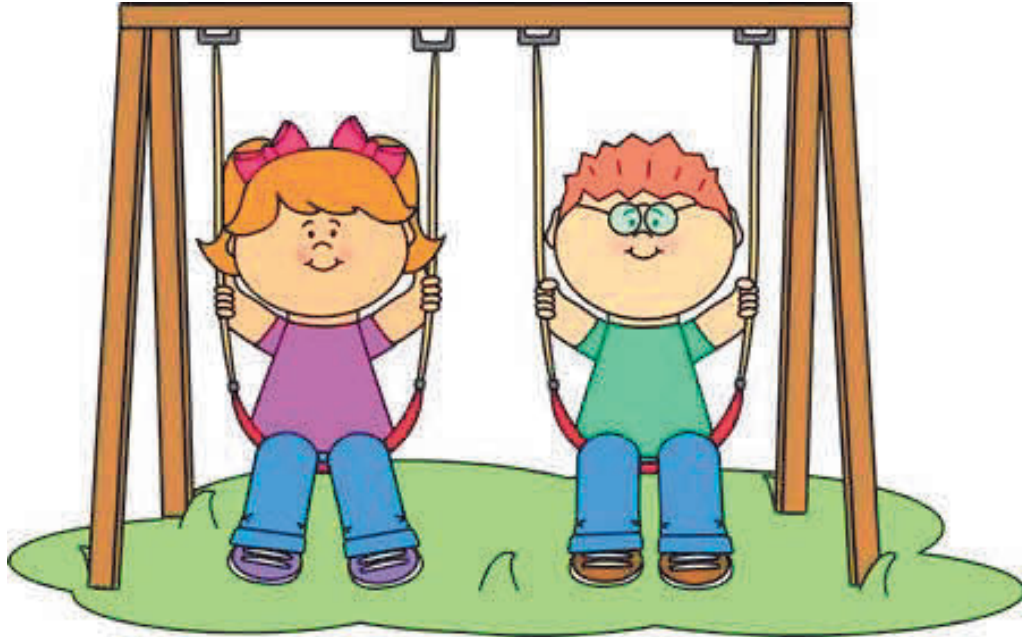
November 02
November 02
November 05
November 11
November 17
November 19
November 26
November 29

Bev Brandt
Jeff Miller
Connie Consedine
Wayne McIntyre
Dale Knipschild
Elliot Baltz
Colleen Stephens
Wyatt Anderson



November 11, 2020

Ken and Fabi Voight



PRESCHOOL NEWS

We have been so busy at preschool!! We have met new friends and are learning our routine. We currently have 8 children in each class. We have been wearing our masks and having a great time!

We are working very hard on our projects, have learned Bible stories such as Noah's Ark and had a visit from a fire fighter!! We have had our Halloween Party and on Fridays we have show and tell and Science Friday!

We would like to thank the church for allowing us to have our preschool here! We are so grateful for your support!!

We also want to thank our awesome families for sending their children to us! We so appreciate everything the church is doing for us by following the guidelines to stay safe in these crazy times. The children don't seem to be bothered at all!

We are about to learn about Thanksgiving and more stories from the Bible.

We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy!

Alison and Amanda



Amanda Price Hillard

SEPTEMBER 22

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Income \$11,927.82 Expense \$9,735.67



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

Service Times: Sunday at 10:00 am
Recorded Service Available On Our Website After 12:30 pm

Where God's work happens 7 days a week.
A First Century Church for the Twenty-first Century
Look for us on Facebook!