



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter November 2021

The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517

[Letter from the Pastor](#)

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

This first weekend in November marks All Saints Sunday, the festival of the church year where we mark those saints who have gone before us from the church at labor, to the church at rest. We build day in and day out upon the legacy of those saints who have gone before us. Daily, we serve at the intersection of those who have come before us, those who are here now, and those who will come eventually.

Just the other day I drove past a church with a graveyard behind it, there before me I saw the church, both the saints at labor and the saints at rest. I've been thinking a lot lately about the great cloud of witnesses we've lost this year. we mark eight lives lost this year. We give thanks to God for giving them to us for a time and look forward to the day when we shall be reunited once more.

Just a week ago we saw 5 young people affirm that the faith they were baptized in is the same faith they wish to remain rooted in. This weekend 2 young people will continue their studies of Lutheran Theology in the hope that they too might affirm their baptismal promises that their parents entered them into all those years ago.

Looking forward to the future, there are exciting things in the works. On the 13th the church will host a viewing of the Red Sea Miracle part one, at 1 pm, I invite the whole congregation and friends to attend. The Thanksgiving service will be held on the week of thanksgiving, more information will follow. I invite the whole congregation, your friends and families to attend. As we begin this month commemorating those brothers and sisters who rest in the faith, we go forward with the cross of Jesus Christ uniting both us here upon creation and those who rest in the glory of almighty God.

Respectfully yours in Christ

Pastor Blake W Shipman



President's Letter November 2021

Greetings to all!

This year's Reformation Sunday on October 31st fittingly marked the end of our congregation's fiscal year as we transition to a November 1 to October 31 operating year. Beginning this year, our annual meeting that usually occurred on the third Sunday of January each year will now be held on the third Sunday of November every year, so please mark your calendars to be sure to attend our worship service on November 21 and stay for the annual meeting.

A primary impetus for this change in fiscal year was to allow those members who spend part of the winter months in warmer climates to participate in the annual meeting. The new timing also allows us to plan projects that we want to accomplish during the next year and approve the annual budget to fund those activities, as well as to select council

members and officers to serve as we begin the new Church Year with the Advent season, which begins on November 28 this year.

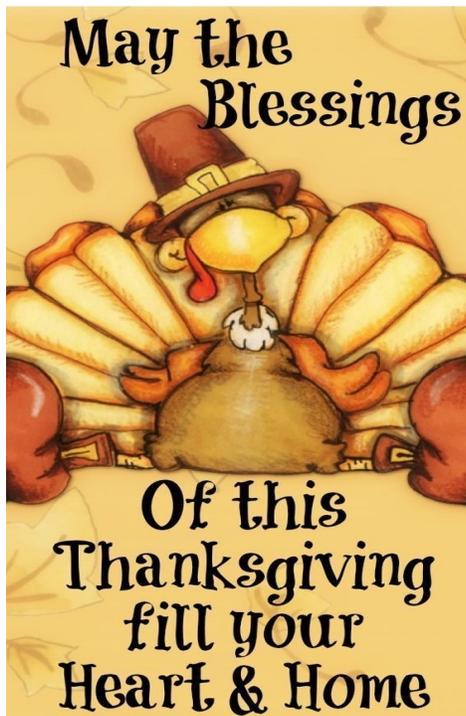
We are in the midst of budget planning and preparing summaries of what we have accomplished as a congregation over the last 10 months of this abbreviated year. Looking at the list of projects and activities, which will be shared in the annual report, it is amazing what a small congregation can achieve together. A few years ago we transitioned from a church structure composed of a board of deacons and a board of trustees to a small, volunteer team-based approach to preserve and improve our brick & mortar building, utilities, and audio-visual capabilities, as well as to ensure that we always keep our focus on the mission and ministries of the congregation. Based on what we have accomplished over the past year, this small-team approach is serving us very well.

In the coming months the Council will review the Strategic Plan we adopted several years ago, the progress the congregation has made since

then, and determine what is working well and where we need to increase our focus to continue to be a vibrant, welcoming, and faithful community of believers in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

With that, looking forward to seeing all of you in church again soon.

Bryan Daniel
President





ANNUAL MEETING

We are excited to announce that our annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 21 immediately following our worship service.**

We have been working hard behind the scenes on a project that will allow members to login remotely and participate in the meeting via Zoom.

Of course, we would prefer to see everyone in person, but if you aren't able to do that, you can participate remotely.

In order to participate in the meeting remotely, you will have to create a Zoom account on your computer or mobile device. We recommend that you do this a few days prior to the meeting.

Here are the instructions for creating a zoom account:

1. Open the browser on your Mac, PC or Mobile and head to the Zoom website to create and manage an account. www.zoom.com
2. On the far right side you will see an orange button that says "sign Up It's Free". Click on that and follow the instructions.
3. Next send an email message to Church at contact.stmatt@gmail.com and indicate that you will be participating in the annual meeting remotely.
4. Look for an eblast message one day before the meeting date. The message will give instructions on how to participate remotely and will have a Zoom link for you to use to join the meeting on November 21.

OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH

Brandon and Robin Etzel Family

(Jan and Bruce's son)

On October 29, 2021, they welcomed a baby boy named Dillon born 8 weeks prematurely. He weighed 3.1 lb and will be spending a long time in the NICU. We will add the family to our prayer list and send our November donations to the family to help with the associated medical costs.

If you would like to give to our mission of the month, please put your donation in an envelope marked MONTHLY MISSION and place in the basket in the welcome center.

"When God Blesses You Financially,
Don't Raise Your Standard Of Living. Raise Your
Standard of GIVING"



Wyatt Anderson
Elliot Baltz
Beverly Brandt
Connie Consedine
Tina Daniel
Judy Edwards
Dale Knipschield
Wayne McIntyre
Pam McKinsey
Jeff Miller
Colleen Stephens



Kris and Chuck Korte
William and Beverly Reda
Ken and Fabi Voigt

October Financial Information



Income \$12,596.50

Expense \$6,369.84



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

Service Times:
Saturday at 5:30 pm
Sunday at 10 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!