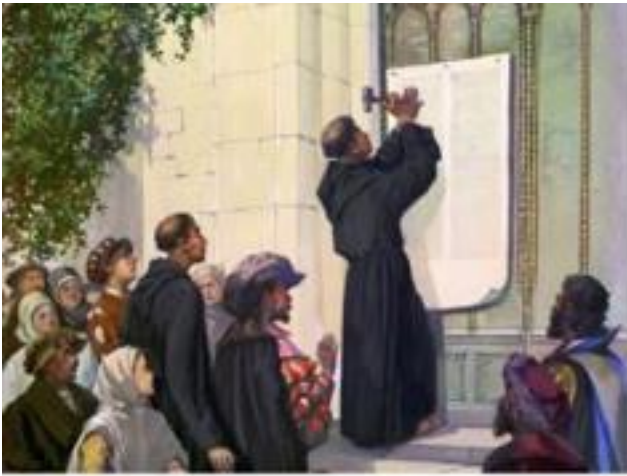




St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter

DECEMBER 2022

The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517

[Letter from the Pastor](#)

Greetings to you in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord

I've had a specific song from the Taizé community in my head over the past few days. It begins with the simple phrase Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God. This simple chorus grows into a round that ends with shouts of Alleluia from all participants. This advent season reminds me a lot of the progression of this song. It begins as a faint whisper and ends in a full roar as we mark the inbreaking of God enfleshed in Christ into creation. This Advent season the church is offering midweek services Wednesday evenings at 5 pm. We will gather in the sanctuary, sing and pray, and study God's word to us through the ancient texts of the O

Antiphons. Due to this being a special seasonal event Lutheranism 101 will be moved to Thursdays at 2pm for the time being. On December 21st we will be gathering for an Advent lessons and carols service where we will hear God's word, sing our praise, and hear some voices from the congregation reflect on what the advent season means to them. Finally, starting the first weekend in December a sign up sheet will be in the welcome center for poinsettias for Christmas. Like years past we are asking you purchase either a red or white plant and then have it to the church no later than December 24th.

Finally I wish to extend my thanks and gratitude to Bryan and Charlie for their leadership and mentorship over these past years. They've both served on council since I arrived in 2018 and their love of God has shown through their time in leading God's people at St. Matthew Lutheran. They will be greatly missed and I look forward to how they will still bless our congregation in the years to come. As we prepare to lead the

congregation with a fresh council with fresh faces I am hopeful for the year ahead. God's will WILL be done, and we are just getting started.

Respectfully yours in Christ

Rev. Blake W Shipman



President's Letter December 2022

Greetings to all!

As I wrote in my November letter to the Congregation, the Council was busy last month preparing the budget for 2023 and getting our reports prepared for the annual meeting. As I write now, the annual meeting was just completed so I do not have much material to work with here for this month's letter.

However, I can report that I am now officially a lame duck president, and Charlie Marsden is a lame duck vice president. When the new council meets on December 14 one of the first items on the agenda is to elect new officers for both the Council and the Congregation. This turnover of council members every year is very healthy for us as it brings in new people with new ideas and different perspectives on how to lead our Congregation into the future as we continue to pursue our mission "As a Christ-centered Congregation we enrich our lives through God's Word, sharing our gifts with all people." So, I want to congratulate and thank Kris

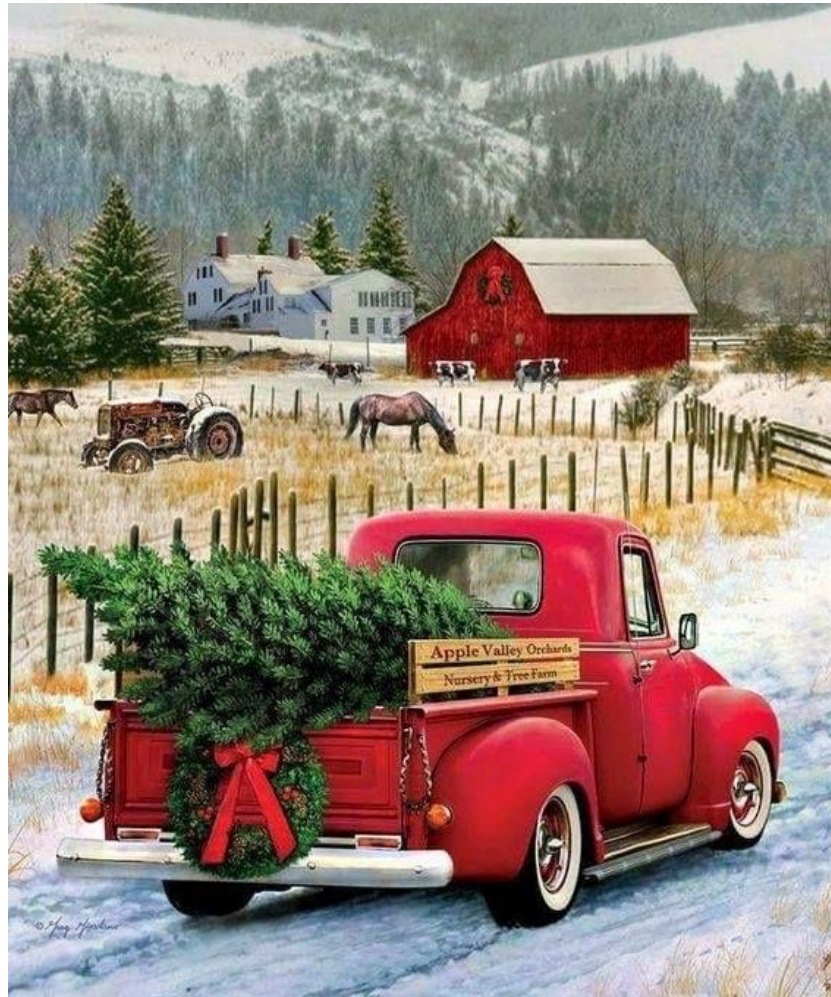
Korte, Deb Hyland and Gary Appel for agreeing to join the Council and help to lead us over the next year with the rest of the Council members.

During our discussion of the 2023 budget members raised many good questions, which we tried to answer honestly and accurately. But if anyone has any more questions, or did not understand or especially like the answers given, please do not hesitate to contact Charlie or me, or any other Council member, for clarification or more discussion. It is understandable that not everyone feels comfortable asking questions in a group setting, and we do not want any member to have lingering, unaddressed questions about the church's finances in our current situation.

It has been an honor to serve as the Congregation's president, and as secretary before that – the past six years I served passed quickly. And I always will be prepared to help out whenever and wherever I can if asked going forward.

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

Bryan Daniel
Congregation President





Advent midweek services Wednesdays at 5 pm.

Advent Lessons and Carols. December 21 at 5 pm.

Lutheranism 101 will be moved to Thursdays at 2pm

Christmas Eve Service will begin at 7 pm

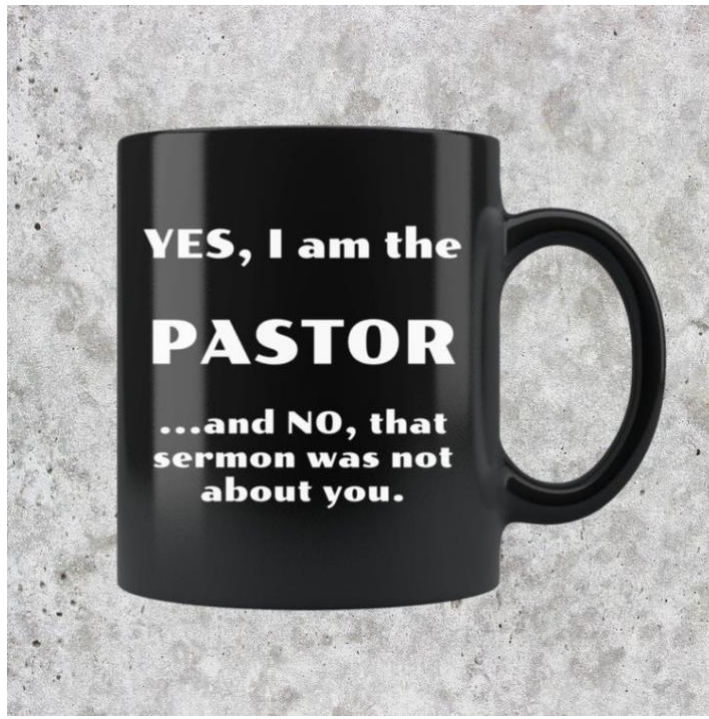
Christmas Day Service will begin at 10 am



We love to decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas. As in years past we are asking you **purchase either a red or white plant and then have it to the church no later than December 24th.**

Welcome

Do you see a need the church can fill? Talk to Pastor Blake about the outreach fund!



Coming soon to a church near you"Ask The Pastor"

Pastor Blake will be staying a half hour after each service in his office. Please come see him with your questions, ideas, cares and concerns.



A sign-up list is in the Welcome Center for any who would like to help us with

ushering

reading Scripture lessons, or

assisting in communion distribution.

Training Provided

You can also send an email to contact.stmat@gmail.com

if interested in learning more.

OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH

Ixtapa Mission in Mexico

Each January Shirley Friedl travels to Ixtapa and delivers our donations directly to this church. The Pastor and congregation are always so grateful for the money we send and always use our donations to help the people and better the community.

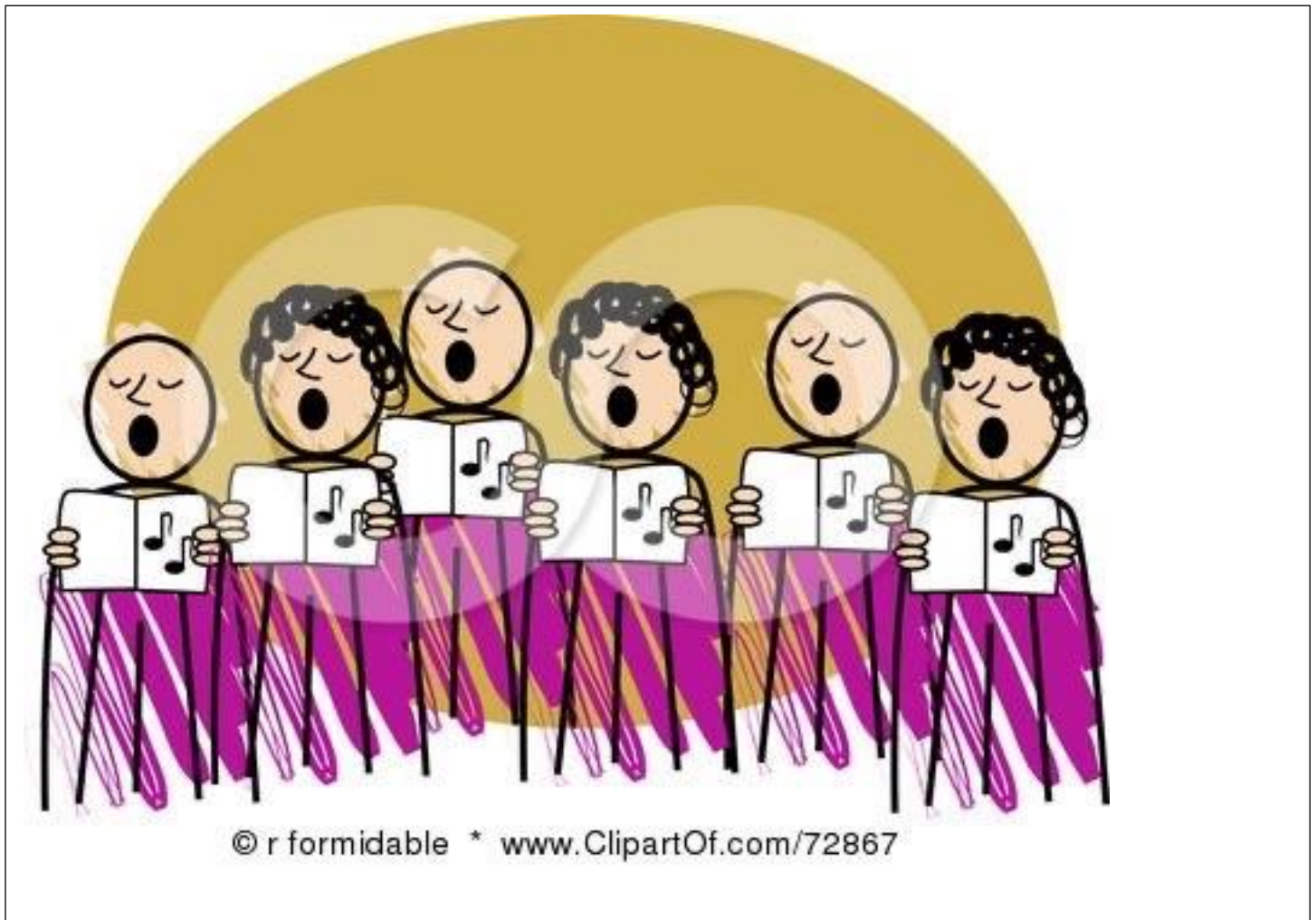
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f you would like to give to our mission of the month, please put your donation in an envelope marked MONTHLY MISSION and place in the basket in the welcome center.

“When God Blesses You Financially,
Don’t Raise Your Standard Of Living. Raise Your
Standard of GIVING”



Ron Lawson
Mazin Plumb
Sandra Wild



LOVE TO SING??

OUR CHOIR WILL NOT REHEARSE IN DECEMBER
BUT WILL RESUME IN JANUARY.
WE MEET DOWNSTAIRS ON THURSDAYS AT 4 PM

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.
JOIN US WHEN WE RESUME IN 2023!!



November Financial Information



Income

Expense

FINANCIAL INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE



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!