



# St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter February 2021

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

### [Letter from the Pastor](#)

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

They say that winters around here are mild till you get to February and holy cow does this year live up to those standards. Nearly 30 below zero for multiple days? No thank you!

Despite all of these cold days the love of Christ still burns hot in all those who make up the church. We are preparing for some great things at St. Matthew Lutheran. Ash Wednesday is coming

up and there will be a normal Ash Wednesday Service held on Wednesday, February 17. I will be offering a daily devotional on Facebook Live during the weekdays for the foreseeable future. Be sure to tune in and hear about many different topics.

In council news, Bruce Etzel will be stepping down as President. I'd personally like to thank him for his service and dedication over the past few years. Any time of transition is tough, but with him at the head of the council, it made my transition seamless. In the coming days do pray for our leadership team as we find the next person to lead the council.

As more and more people get vaccinated in the coming days your leadership team and I will be constantly watching the status of vaccinations across the county and adjust our COVID protocol as it is necessary.

Just the other day I heard the first song bird of the season. Though it might not feel like it at the moment, spring is in the air. As the weather begins to improve as well I hope to offer some

new options for worship such as outdoor worship. As we hunker down through this cold season do know that the love of Christ continues to shine for us all. This love has journeyed with us thus far and shall walk with us forevermore through both the highest hill and the darkest valley.

Respectfully yours in Christ

-Pastor Blake W. Shipman

*ASH*  
*WEDNESDAY*



*Remember that*  
*you are dust, and to*  
*dust you shall return.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:20*

## February 2021 President's Letter

As noted in the January Newsletter, Bruce Etzel has stepped down as president and the Council has asked me to take on the duties of Council President. So, for the next month or so it will be a learning curve for me as I learn what needs to be accomplished. With the support of Bruce and the rest of the Council, I hope I don't let too many activities fall through the cracks.

Since we recently re-opened the church to in-person worship, attendance has averaged around 10 members a week, with 23 people attending the annual meeting on January 17. We have robust safety protocols in place, so I welcome you to attend in person if you feel comfortable doing so; especially those who yearn to partake of the Holy Communion.

The good news is our on-line internet outreach is extending well beyond those worshipping in person, especially for a congregation of our size. The recordings of our weekly services are available to everyone with internet access on our website <https://www.stmat.net/worship/>. Each recording is available for viewing for about five weeks before the oldest one is replaced by the most recent one. We are getting anywhere from 300 to well over 500 hits on each recording over that five-week period, which far exceeds the number of members we have, so our congregation's message is being heard by many outside our immediate church family.

We recently started live-streaming our services on Facebook at 10:00 am on Sundays, and the recording of the service is maintained on Facebook indefinitely, so folks have a choice of locations to access our services. I also am told we are getting over 70 hits on Pastor Blake's short videos that he uploads to Facebook, which you can access from our church website. I encourage you to see what we have to offer on both the website and our Facebook page if you have not already done so.

Finally, on March 5, St. Matthew will be hosting the World Day of Prayer service that will bring together representatives of all the local churches into our building. Pam McKinsey is coordinating this event. World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. According to the USA chapter's website:

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

- It is initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It is symbolized by an annual day of celebration observed on the first Friday in March to which all people are welcome.
- It brings women of different races, cultures and traditions together in fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

- Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world.
- The motto of World Day of Prayer is “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.”

We will be recording and streaming that service beginning at 12:00 pm on March 5, so you are invited to participate remotely in that event.

With that, please feel free to contact me, or any other member of the Council, directly with any issues, concerns, requests or comments. I look forward to serving you as the Congregation president over the coming year. I hope to see you all in church soon!

Bryan Daniel



**We are happy to announce the Council Members and Officers for 2021.**

**Council Members for 2021**

- Holly Bertucci
- Connie Consedine
- Bryan Daniel
- Bruce Etzel
- Charles Marsden
- Jeff Miller
- Kathy Pedersen
- Pastor Blake Shipman
- Carolyn Stork
- Tanya Vanderlinde
- Todd Vanderlinde

**Officers for 2021**

- Bryan Daniel – President
- Charles Marsden – Vice President
- Connie Consedine – Treasurer
- Kathy Pedersen – Secretary





February 02

Tammy Oldenberg

February 09

William Read

February 11

Irle Boehm

February 11

Shirley Friedl

February 14

Stacy Miller

February 16

Velda Schoenfeld

February 18

Cindia Baltz

February 18

Sarah Miller



February 14  
February 29

Gary & Gail Appel  
Cameron & Rhonda Harstad



Income \$20,661.40      Expense \$7,720.80



St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
127 South High Street,  
Galena, IL 61036  
815-777-1134  
[www.stmat.net](http://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!

