



St. Matthew

Lutheran Church

Newsletter

February 2022

The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517

Letter from the Pastor

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

“We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” These verses from Saint Paul’s letter to the church in Rome are echoing in my mind a lot these days. More and more articles are being published about the future of online worship, others are wondering what the pandemic will do next. Lines are being drawn, divisions made, yet the words of Paul are clear. No matter if we worship online or in person, no matter if we mask or choose not to, no matter if we decide to commune from the rail or from the pew, we are still united as the body of Christ. I value that we, as a small congregation, are living into our

vocation of the body of Christ through many and various mediums and I am excited to see where God will call us in the future.

In order to prepare for that your council and myself will be meeting to go over the strategic plan laid out for the congregation in 2018 and figure out where we are and what we have left to do in order to get where God is calling us. In the spirit of Saint Paul's words there are also some exciting events coming up to strengthen our life together. In the season of Lent the Alpha Couse will be offered over the six weeks of Lent along with a meal. Stay tuned for more information on this piece as plans are still in the works. Coming up in the worship life of the congregation there will be two baptisms, one this month and one around Easter time, and we continue to familiarize ourselves with the new liturgical setting by Marty Haugen. Finally, I wish to offer my condolences again to the family of Tryon Mendez who died this past month. Those who wish to send a card to his mother Sandra can find the address in the back of the worship bulletins. May the peace of Christ strengthen and keep you in the midst of yet another month.

Respectfully yours in Christ

-Pr. Blake W Shipman

President's Letter February 2022

Greetings to all!

We began our worship services this month of with our new green paraments that we will be using for the seasons of Epiphany and following Pentecost. The new purple paraments for the Lenten season are being prepared and we should have them in time for Ash Wednesday worship. They are a beautiful addition to our historic church. If anyone has suggestions on what to do with our previous paraments, please let a Council member know your thoughts.

Speaking of Lent, Pastor Blake and the Council will be developing plans for activities during the Lenten season. Nothing is final as I write, but expect to hear more over the next couple of weeks.

As I mentioned in my January letter, the Council will be meeting to review and update the congregation's Strategic Plan later this month. This is a vitally important activity in the life of this congregation, so everyone's input would be greatly appreciated. The updated plan is intended to (i) give us a snap-shop of where we are as a congregation based on a number of criteria such as membership participation, outreach activity, financial health, etc.; (ii) develop a vision of where we as a congregation want to be in five years or so in the future (i.e., how we perceive *ourselves* as a Galena, Illinois- based congregation of believers in Christ, as well as how we are perceived by *others* as a Galena, Illinois-based congregation of believers in Christ; and, (iii) what actions we need to take to take going forward to make that vision a reality. The Council is already receiving thoughts from some members who are not on the Council. I strongly encourage everyone to share your thoughts and ideas with any Council member so that we can develop the vision and activities that all of us can get behind and actively support going forward.

Now, a housekeeping item to bring up. We are having issues with the church's backdoor not fully closing and locking. Kathy Marsden, and Charlie, have been working with Roger Johnson to troubleshoot the problem. They have a working theory, but it will not be implemented or proven out until March. So

until then we ask that anyone who enters or exits the back door to please ensure that the door is fully closed. The locking pin at the bottom of the door will work properly only when you push the panic bar. So please take your time entering and exiting to ensure the door is closed and locked.

In closing, the Council will be finalizing our Ministries of the Month this February. Although suggestions for new ministries may be suggested throughout the year, and we have made mid-year corrections in the past, we would really appreciate any suggestions you have for consideration at this time.

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

Bryan Daniel
President



Our beautiful new paraments.

Thank you so much for your generosity toward our family! Baby Dillon is doing great and we feel blessed beyond measure. The outpouring of support is heart-warming and it feels good to know that we have such a loving church community.

Love, Brandon, Robin,
and Dillon

OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH

Hospice of Dubuque

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"



Cindia Baltz
Irle Boehm
Shirley Friedl
Tammy Oldenburg
William Reda
Velda Schoenfeld
CJ Stuart



Gail & Gary Appel

Cameron & Rhonda Harstad

January Financial Information



Income \$17,816.04

Expense \$10,876.14



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

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