



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter March 2020

The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517

[Letter from the Pastor](#)

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord

We are officially in the season of Lent, the 40 day season before the resurrection of our Lord where God calls the world to repent and look within. Lent has always been one of my favorite times in the church year. The solemnity of the season coupled with the promised resurrection at the end truly makes it a season like no other.

Lutheran traditions in Lent are mixed and varied. Some people give something up, others do nothing different. Over the past few years I have taken up fasting on Fridays in Lent. I find that through this practice I am reminded of how God sustains us in our lives daily through food. What are you doing to commemorate this Lenten journey?

As we continue on within this journey remember the Easter dawn that lays before us. Hold fast and know that our God provides for all.

In Christ

-Pastor Blake W. Shipman

A letter from your president

“What wondrous love is this, oh my soul, oh my soul?”

Dear friends and church family,

The above quote comes from my favorite Lenten hymn, “What Wondrous Love is This”. The season of Lent is one of self-examination and contemplation regarding the amazing sacrifice our Savior made on behalf of all of us. The love he continually bestows on us in truly “wondrous”.

As those of us who sought warmer climates to spend much of the winter return to St. Matthew’s, I personally am looking forward to greeting our many friends. Sunday, March 8 marks the beginning of Daylight Savings Time so make sure to move those clocks FORWARD one hour. We lose one hour of sleep on Saturday night... but we gain that hour of daylight in the evening.

The Council met on February 12 and elected the following officers for 2020: President – Bruce Etzel; Vice-President – Charlie Marsden; Secretary – Bryan Daniel; Treasurer – Connie Consedine. Thank you all for your service. Please pray for your Council members and be willing to help them in the service of the church if called upon to do so in the coming year.

Although Jan and I were out of town, I have heard that an excellent organ recital was performed by Dr. Karen Black of Wartburg College on February 22. We are blessed to have such an amazing instrument in our sanctuary and thank you, Dr. Black, for dedicating it for us!

The premier showing of “*The Red Sea Miracle*” was a huge success. Jan and I tried to see it in Texas at a theatre close to our son’s home but the theatre was sold out! We are eager to see it once it is released on CD and are equally excited to see the next movie in the series on May 5. Knowing that this type of movie is selling out across the country where people do not know anyone affiliated with its production is exciting and encouraging. Christians everywhere are interested in learning more!

Keep your ears and eyes open for announcements regarding upcoming events at the church! We are considering having a once a month movie night with popcorn and drinks. Pastors Baltz and Shipman are also planning some Bible study events for Lent. A busy church is always a good sign!

May the Lord bless you all as you contemplate the season of Lent.

In His service,

Bruce Etzel

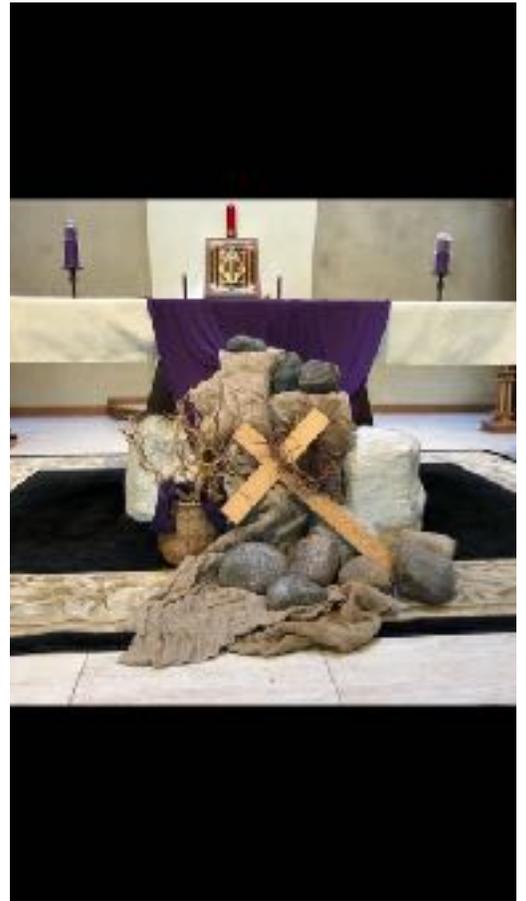
Special Lenten Event at St. Matthew Lutheran
Church
“Encounters With the Cross”

In the days leading to Good Friday and Easter, thoughts are drawn to the cross of Jesus. The cross, once an instrument of torture and death, has become the symbol of the Christian faith; no other religion has anything like it in view of the original meaning of the symbol, contrasted with the eternal life it represents now. Jesus’ enduring of the cross has come to be seen as the measure of his love for the sinner.

On April 2 at 7:00 P.M., Dr. Frederick Baltz, Pastor Emeritus of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, will lead a special, Lenten Bible study experience for members and friends of the church, believers and non-believers... anyone interested in exploring what the Bible’s message of the cross.

The study will address (1) prophetic passages, with their profound words anticipating the crucifixion centuries before it happened. Next, (2) the crucifixion itself will be discussed as the Gospels portray it. (3) we will address the way “the cross” soon became a code word for the Gospel in the New Testament and beyond. (4) Finally, the study will turn to Jesus’ summons to his disciples, that they must take up their crosses and follow him. What does that mean for Christians now?

“Encounters With the Cross” will be held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, and all are welcome. Coffee will be provided, and Bibles for any who need them. If time permits, Dr. Baltz will answer questions participants submit regarding any biblical topic. Questions, call 563 580-7080.



EVENTS THIS MONTH

Every

Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study at Nursing Home
Wednesday	8:30 am	Men's Bible Study
2 nd / 3 rd Tuesday	12:30 pm	Quilters
2 nd / 4 th Tuesday	3:00 pm	With Our Hearts and Hands Ministry

Specific Dates

March 07	5:30 pm	Communion
March 08	10:00 am	Communion
March 11	5:30 pm	Council Meeting
March 28	5:30 pm	Communion
March 29	10:00 am	Communion (Ash Wed)

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Birthdays

03	John Carlson
17	Kathy Marsden
18	Jim Moser
	Timothy Grass
20	Gary Appel
23	Bruce Etzel

Anniversaries

21	Bill & Elaine Fitch
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SPECIAL FOCUS MISSION

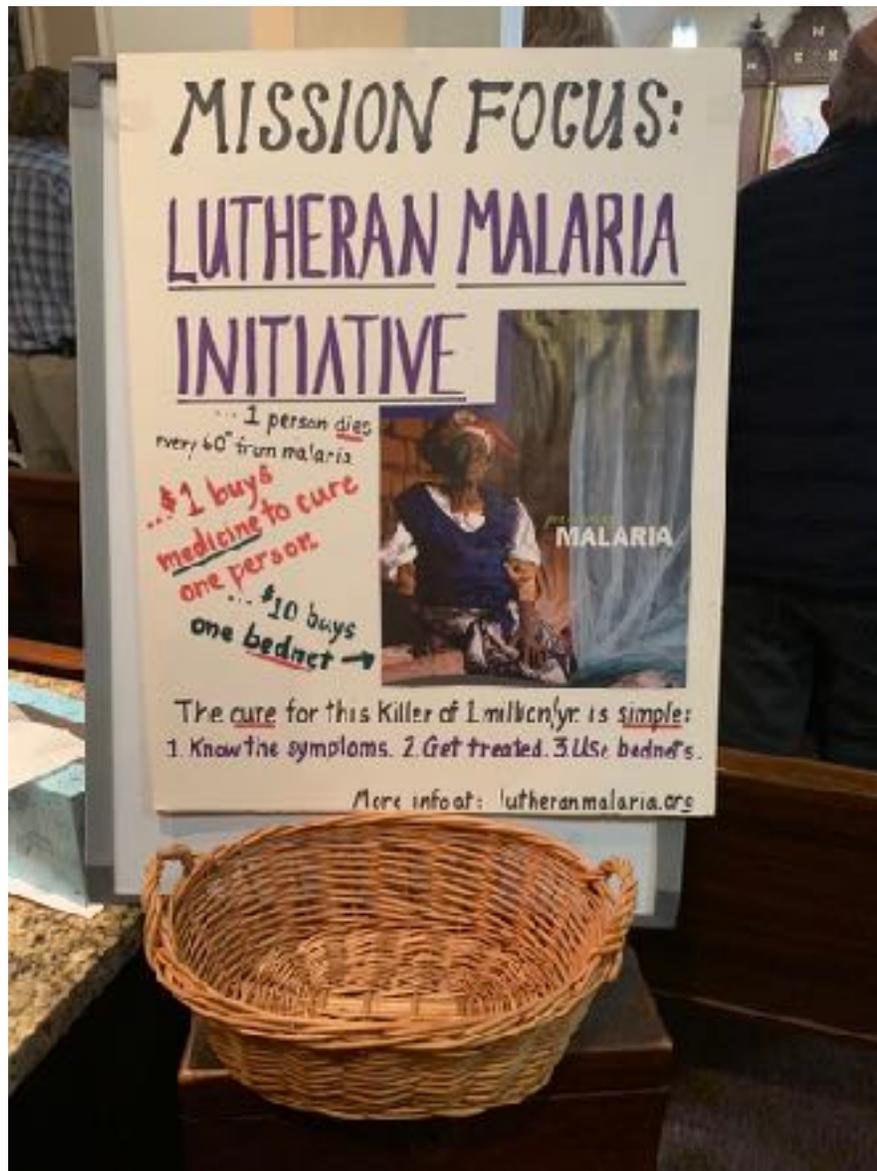
LUTHERAN MALARIA INITIATIVE MARCH 2020

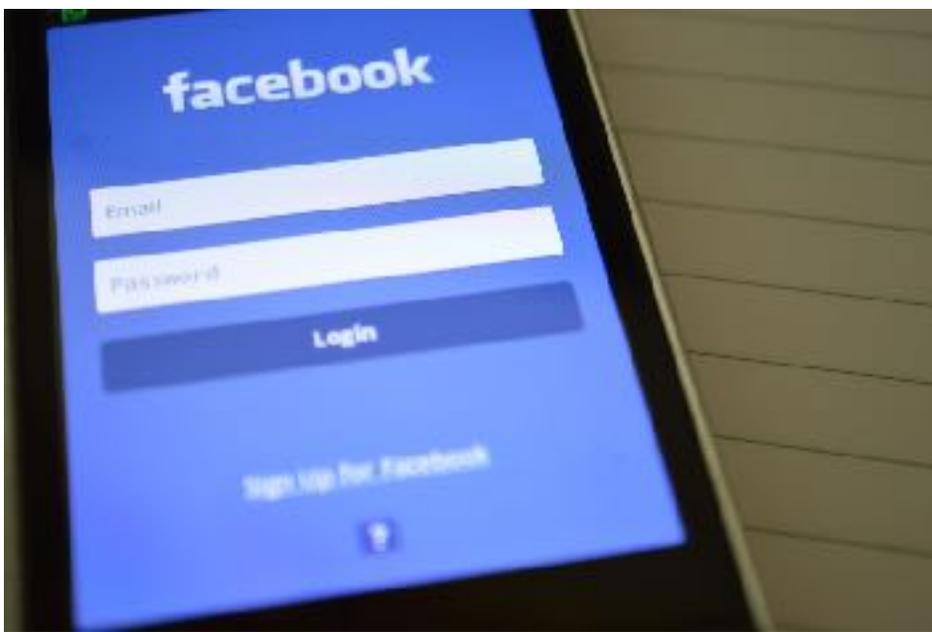
They say a dollar doesn't buy much these days. I'm here to tell you that's not true.....

\$1 will buy medicine to cure Malaria for one person!

\$10 will buy a bed net to keep the mosquitos out and prevent Malaria in the first place!

We have a basket in the welcome area at church to collect your donations or you can mail a check to the Church. Please mark your check MALARIA EFFORT.





Hey! Did you know our church is on Facebook?

Social Media can be a great way for our members to congregate outside of our church walls. We can share exciting things going on in our lives.

Potential visitors will first check out our website and then immediately hop to Facebook to check us out. The #1 thing that people are looking for in a church is to feel at home when they go there. They want to belong. Can you imagine a potential visitor checked out our Facebook page just to find a warm and welcoming community of people interacting with each other online? I know that is a church I would love to go to!

With this in mind, we need your help. Facebook has algorithms that dictate how often posts are seen. To beat this and ensure that our posts are reaching a large audience, we need to interact with each other on posts. Go to our Facebook page and like it! Then comment on our posts.....

A LIKE is good, a COMMENT is better and a SHARE is great!

If you have something you would like to have posted on our page, please send it to Kim Miller and it will be posted.

**LEAVE
MONEY
STRESS
BEHIND**



Are you tired of money stress? Then you're ready to join more than five million people whose lives have been changed by *Financial Peace University* (FPU)! This nine-lesson course taught by Dave Ramsey, Chris Hogan and Rachel Cruze helps you work a plan to nail a budget, defeat debt, and free yourself from money worries! You'll join a small group for discussions and lessons—all rooted in biblical wisdom and common sense. FPU includes your member workbook and a free year of Financial Peace Membership, with online tools created to support your journey. For more info, contact Kim Miller at 815-281-1160.

To register online go to www.financialpeace.com and use our unique class link

fpu.com/1115592

This class is open to everyone, so please share and invite friends! If you are tired of living paycheck to paycheck with more month than money (I know I am!) then join us! Our class will meet at our church, March 22-May 17 at 4 pm.

Those Who Serve In MARCH 2020

Ushers

Readers

Saturday 3/7 _____

Sunday 3/8 _____

Saturday 3/14 _____

Sunday 3/15 Ken & Fabi Voight

Connie

Saturday 3/21 Jeff Miller

Sunday 3/22 _____

Saturday 3/28 _____

Sunday 3/29 _____

Communion Servers

Bulletin Folders

Saturday 3/7 _____

3/6 Jackie Miller

Sunday 3/8 Ken & Fabi Voight

3/13 Jackie Miller

Saturday 3/28 _____

3/20 _____

Sunday 3/29 _____

3/27 Jackie Miller

Couriers

3/3 John 3/10 Connie

3/17 John 3/24 Connie

3/31 Connie

Studies have shown that we feel more connected to people and organizations when we work together for a common goal. As you can see, we have several blanks on our sign up sheet. None of the tasks take much time or are difficult to do. We will train you! For our Church to continue to run smoothly, we need your help.

Please consider taking one of the empty spaces on our sheet. Sign up in the Welcome Center, send an email or call the church and we will get you signed up.

Church Office News

If you need to contact Kim Miller, Church Clerk or Tom Staver, Financial Secretary, please call the church office at 815-777-1134 or email contact.stmatt@gmail.com. There is an inbox on the desk in the office for messages, receipts, etc. Please include your name, phone number and

Please submit articles, pictures or information for the newsletter to contact.stmatt@gmail.com no later than the 28th of the month.

February Financial Information

Income \$ 5,385.80

Expenses \$ 9,007.00

Net Loss \$3,621.20



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

Service Times: Saturday at 5:30 pm Sunday at 10:00 am

*Where God's work happens 7 days a week.
A First Century Church for the Twenty-first Century.*



See our website for our full calendar of events and follow us on Facebook!