



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter March 2021

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[Letter from the Pastor](#)

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

Spring is finally in the air! As I've driven around town in the last few days I've noticed a new buzz of energy throughout Galena. Downtown is gaining life once more, the birds are singing, the deer are running free through the cemetery, life is good here on the second tallest hill in the state. I find it funny that the season of Lent always falls in the spring. The time in the church year for penance, contemplation, and a realignment back

to God is the same time of warmth, growth, and birth for the flora and fauna that calls creation home. I feel this was not happenstance, this wasn't a happy little accident that Lent falls at this time. No, God puts Lent right here amidst growth and life to remind us that, while the Lenten journey we are on ultimately ends at the commemoration of Jesus's crucifixion, the resurrection that takes place three days later is the ultimate goal. I don't write this to completely discount the Lenten journey we are on as it serves an important role within our church, but I do caution you to not look at Lent as an ending, as it is just the beginning of the promises which God fulfills to us day in and day out. I see God's promises playing out within this congregation.

As more people get vaccinated church attendance has picked up, as it gets warmer out I am now able to hit the road once more and drop in for a visit, (If you see me around town be sure to wave), council and I continue to think of new ways to

provide services to the congregation and the whole of the community.

In congregational news, we've lost our sister in Christ Marilyn Muehleip. On behalf of the congregation I extend our deepest sympathies to her family and remind us all of the day of resurrection which is surely coming. Hold fast, the winter was long yet we are nearly there.

- Pr. Blake W. Shipman



President's Letter March 2021

Greetings to all!

Although the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in Jo Daviess and Dubuque counties has been slower than anticipated, attendance at our February 27 worship service indicates that progress is being made since we had what I think was the second highest attendance since the pandemic restrictions were imposed on indoor gatherings last spring (the highest being the recent annual meeting). We are not yet back to normal attendance levels by any means, but we are definitely now on the road to a return to normalcy. The safety protocols we put in place last year remain, and members attending are faithfully following the rules to maintain a safe worship environment. So I encourage members to consider attending worship in person when you feel comfortable to do so.

As the newly constituted Council starts its work beginning with the March Council meeting, one of the items we discuss are the ministries that we want to support with financial donations throughout the year. In addition to supporting the Lutheran Church of South Sudan in Africa, we have our Ministries of the Month. The current list of ministries is:

January	The Workshop
February	Hospice of Dubuque
March	Malaria Bed Net Project
April	Fill the Well
May	Lutheran Military Veterans
June	Children of Mendi
July	World Food Crisis
August	School Kits/ Project Comfort
September	Health Kits/Project Comfort
October	United Churches of Galena Emergency Fund
November	United Churches of Galena Food Pantry
December	Ixtapa, Mexico

The Council encourages church members to offer suggestions of other organizations engaged in good works to be considered as a Ministry of the Month. So please do not hesitate to let a Council member know if you have any suggestions for consideration.

Finally, Pastor Blake will be officiating at Marilyn Muehleip's funeral service in the church on Thursday, March 4. The service is limited to family only, but we will be recording the service and storing it on one of our servers. We will be providing a link to the service to the family so

that they can share it with family and friends who are not able to attend. Please contact me if you would like a link to the recording.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in church again soon.

Bryan Daniel





March 03

March 08

March 18

March 20

March 23

John Carlson

Blake Shipman

Jim Moser

Gary Appel

Bruce Etzel



March 21

Bill & Elaine Fitch



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: 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!

