



St. Matthew

Lutheran Church

Newsletter

APRIL 2022

The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517

Letter from the Pastor

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord

Holy week is one of my favorite weeks of the church year. You must be asking yourself how in the world is the week that works clergy to the bone your favorite week? How can sermon and sermon and intricate services be fun? Two words; Easter Sunday. The business and chaos of the week are all worth it because of what comes on Easter Sunday. We've been going through these past 40 days looking inwards to ourselves and reflecting on that which we fall short on, but on Easter Sunday the truth comes to us. We fall short, but the one who loves us through our shortcomings rises from the grave to greet us where we are at and raises us to newness of life in his holy name. Holy Week at Saint Matthew Lutheran is going to be one great week. We begin the events with Palm Sunday worship Sunday April 10th at ten in the morning. Maundy Thursday will be April 14th at 7pm with the traditional rite of the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday will be at 5pm with a reading of the watchers on the hill, a readers theatre piece that conveys the message of the crucifixion and its meaning in our lives. Easter Sunday worship will be at 10 am with a full choir as well as a baptism. Holy Week is shaping up to be a fruitful one. Post-pandemic (God willing) the church is returning back to what we do best, reaching out to the people of God with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am looking forward to seeing where else we venture in the future while following the call of God.

Respectfully yours in Christ

-Pr. Blake Shipman



President's Letter April 2022

Greetings to all!

As I write we are heading into our last week of the Lenten season and the final program in the Alpha Course that we have discussed during our weekly Lenten dinner and discussion program on Wednesday evenings. The food was good, and the fellowship and discussion that took place was first class. I would highly recommend participating in next year's Lenten programming if you are available.

Finally, we have kicked off our annual Birdies for Charity fund-raising campaign. As in past years, none of the Birdies money raised will be used for short-term goals such as to pay the bills to keep the doors open; these monies are for projects identified to have a lasting impact going into the future. We are focusing on two initiative this year. First, we are launching a new Outreach fund. The intent is to raise monies and place them in a restricted fund that is to be used only for outreach initiatives and activities approved by the Congregation Council. Potential ideas include youth activities, community learning activities, etc.: we are limited by only by our imagination. If anyone has any ideas they would like to be considered, please let someone on the Council know.

Also this year, we hope to install a security camera system that will interact with first responders, which we think is especially important this year in light of the rash of car burglaries that we recently have experienced in the area. Implementation of this project would complete one of the facility upgrades that was identified as a priority by our Safety & Technology committee several years ago, and is a long time coming. As we plan the implementation of the project, we will identify what minimum requirements need to be met to so that we can improve the security of people and property on the church campus that will also allow us to concentrate our funds on church outreach, which is a primary mission of the Church.

As we approach Holy Week, we may be in need of volunteers to assist in one or more of the services. Please take a minute to check the volunteer sign-up sheet in the welcome center to see if there is any unmet need you would feel comfortable with in helping us as we enter this busy season of the Church year.

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

Bryan Daniel
President





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April 1, 2022

Dear Friends and Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church Galena:

It is Birdies for Charity campaign time again, the 2022 edition!

Our Congregation has been partnering with John Deere to raise funds for quite a few years now through their Birdies for Charity program. Campaigns in recent years have primarily focused on funds for needed maintenance or improvements to our building infrastructure, and updated audio/video technology to improve our outreach efforts during the pandemic. We are redirecting our efforts this year.

This year we are asking for your participation so that we can focus our efforts on two primary areas over the next twelve months:

- Establishment of a new Outreach Development Fund
- Implementation of phase I of a security system

At least 50% of the monies raised will be used as seed money to establish a restricted fund to be available for projects intended specifically to broaden and strengthen our outreach to both Members and friends of the church, as well as to increase our outreach in our community. Our plan is to grow this fund over the next year or two until it reaches a point that it is sustainable over the long-term. Specific outreach projects will be announced in the future when approved by the Council.

The Strategic Plan approved by the congregation several years ago included installation of a security system that would integrate with local emergency first responders to improve response time in times of need. We would use roughly half of the money raised to kick off the installation of this system.

This year's goal is \$5,000. We look forward to your help and support to raise the funds needed to begin these important projects. All of the Birdies for Charity funds designated to St. Matthew Lutheran Church Galena, will be returned to our church with a minimum of 5% added by the John Deere Birdies Organization. This is only possible with the direct support from our Congregation and friends of our historic church.

Thank you all for your help and support!

From the St Matthew Church Council and St. Matthew Birdies for Charity Committee

*As a Christ-centered Congregation we enrich our lives through God's Word, sharing our gifts with all.
A member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday April 10 10 am

Maundy Thursday April 14 7 pm

Good Friday April 15 5 pm

Easter Sunday April 17 10 am



OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH

FILL THE WELL

Your donations are used to provide clean, drinking water in places where there is none.

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"



Jennifer Anderson

Ethan Baltz

Deb Hyland

Marie Kempert

Jackie Miller

Jim Stuart

Darin Wohlers



Joann & John Carlson

Deanna & Sam Gross

Tanya & Todd Vanderlinde

March Financial Information



Income \$6,791.98

Expense \$9,013.20



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!