



# St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter June 2021

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

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

Greetings and peace in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord

As spring gives way to summer and the days get longer and hotter so too the church continues to adapt and serve the greater community within the midst of the tri-states. May was a busy month and June is shaping up to be a productive month as well. We've held four funerals at the church this past month, two for members and two for families that wanted a Christian burial but did not have a church home. We continue to feel the loss of our

dear sisters in Christ, Jeannine and Ruth, yet the church marches forward to live out our mission.

There are some exciting things in the works for the month of June as well. At the end of the month we will have our first wedding inside the church since the beginning of the pandemic. For you Saturday night service loving people I want to let you know that Pastor Emeritus Baltz, Music Minister McKinzie, and I are working together to build a new Saturday night service that we hope to get off the ground in the coming month. This new service will be a modified vespers service that will offer a more quiet and intimate worship space than Sunday morning provides. As always word and sacrament will still be the focal point of our Saturday evening service. Be on the lookout for more information in the announcements in the coming weeks.

As the world starts to open more and more do know you continue to be in my prayers, and I hope the church and myself are in yours. This past year of life has been a struggle for us all

and it's going to continue to be hard at times, but we must remember Jesus's prayer from the gospel of John the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter, "That they may all be one. As you, Father are in me and I in you, may they also be in us." United together through Jesus Christ we've faced the last year together and united through Jesus Christ we shall continue to stride towards the future.

Respectfully yours in Christ

-Pastor Blake W. Shipman

## President's Letter June 2021

Greetings to all!

Throughout the months of April and May we continued on our path to a return to something more closely resembling normalcy. With members now singing hymns and the liturgy, we have resumed using the projector and screen to provide hymn lyrics and other informational graphics. We greatly appreciate the gifts of time and singing that Deb Hyland contributed during the prolonged hiatus of group singing. We now have our new "velvet fishnet" to collect offering rather than passing the offering trays through many hands. And we now are looking for volunteers to serve as ushers and lectors for upcoming worship services. Soon we plan to add communion assistants to the list. Sign-up sheets are in the Welcome Center.

In April a small team started to organize church records, starting with the files on the computer in the church office. Files are being organized into categories such as financial and banking records, corporate documents such as the Congregation's constitution, by-laws, meeting minutes, etc., as well as employee and property documents. The goal is to implement a records retention policy so that we know what records need to be retained permanently, what records need to be kept for a certain number of years before disposal, and where to find the records.

Charlie Marsden, as vice president, has his plate full managing a number of initiatives to ensure that our beautiful church is preserved for the next generation of church members and visitors to enjoy as much we do. To name just a few of the initiatives: we are having experts come in to evaluate and advise us on preserving our stained-glass windows and the painting over the alter; and a church steeple repair project is being launched. There are many more smaller projects going on behind the scenes as well. If you have any interest in any projects and would like to volunteer your time and talents, please let a Council member know. There is always a need for more heads and hands.

Last but not least, last year your Congregation Council wanted to express the Congregation's appreciation to Roger Johnson for all of the time, expertise and effort he has contributed to upgrading and maintaining the church's brick and mortar infrastructure, all the HVAC systems supporting that infrastructure, and the amazing audio, video and safety technology he has implemented over the last several years. The Council worked with the City of Galena to select and plant a tree behind the church with a plaque to commemorate our appreciation. As Pastor Blake noted recently, with our updated website, Facebook presence, and worship service audio/visual streaming sessions and recordings that Roger implemented, we are reaching over 200 people each week. And with Roger's support, we will now be introducing new Assisted Listening devices (thanks to a special donation from a couple of members) for those who need a little help following the service. If you would like to check out this new technology, we will have the devices in the Welcome Center. So once again, Roger, THANK YOU VERY MUCH for all your contributions to SMLC! With that, looking forward to seeing all of you in church again soon.

Bryan Daniel

President





Last Call for Birdies!

Final mailing to John  
Deere is June 14.

All birdies must be in  
our hands by then.

## SPECIAL FOCUS MISSION OF THE MONTH

### *CHILDREN OF MENDI*

Rescue A Generation Ministry provides orphans and destitute children in Mendi, Ethiopia with a Christian environment in which their faith, lifestyle, personal quality and academic competence improve.

Here are some facts about this mission:

Mendi is a remote and very poor town in western Ethiopia.

Many children have lost one or both parents to disease and have no way of supporting themselves.

Children must pay for their own school fees, uniform, books and supplies in order to receive an education.

Monies collected provide these children the financial support they need to attend school and continue on to college when they are ready.

This mission provides a Christian Youth Center with staff to provide the town's children with support and guidance in faith and personal development.

Above all, this is a Christian Ministry that provides mentoring, fellowship and support in the name of Christ.

To give to this mission, you can place your donation in the container located in the Welcome Center at church, or mail directly to the church. If mailing to the church, please write CHILDREN OF MENDI in the memo portion of your check.



June 05

Charles Marsden

June 15

Chuck Stork

June 24

Marie Moser

June 26

Marilyn Boehm

June 26

Nancy Klauer

June 28

Geneva Montgomery



June 04	Russ and Amy Farrey
June 08	Bruce and Jan Etzel
June 16	Mike and Deb Hyland
June 27	Dale and Rita Wohlers
June 30	Ron and Colleen Stephens



Numbers not available by Newsletter deadline. We will include in next months newsletter.

Income \$

Expense \$



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 9:00 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!

