



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter August 2021

The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517

[Letter from the Pastor](#)

Greetings to you in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord

“Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.” These are the words spoken to Jesus by Simon Peter when asked if the 12 would fall

away like the rest. It is a witness to Jesus that the disciples realize that nothing in this world can surmount that which Jesus Christ gives, eternal life. I think that is a beautiful sentiment that we all have to stop and marvel at for a minute every now and again, nothing in the world around us, both seen and unseen, can ever surmount the precious gift given to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. In my work at the church I make this my frame work for all that I say and do. Everything that comes through my work as minister of this congregation is only possible through the one who has set us all in place upon the earth.

In terms of the church, this month has been a fruitful month of ministry.. I’m preparing to perform a baptism at church this weekend. I’ve just come off of a trip to Colorado where I officiated the wedding of Jackie and Kevin Ross (Jackie is the granddaughter of our dear late Jeannine Steinle). I’m working

with Pastor Robin Lucky, of Lord of Love Lutheran Church, to better serve the immigrant community of Galena. Maureen Knipschild and I have met concerning Sunday school and think we've found a great model to implement (more to come on this at a later date). Pam McKinsey and I are constantly meeting to discuss worship and music, and this past week Pam and I have mapped out what the rest of the year will look like within the congregation.

Needless to say it is a busy and fruitful season here at St. Matthew Lutheran church. I am not losing sight of the why behind all of this, the gifts which Peter speaks of in his proclamation, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. May God bless and keep you in this month ahead.

Respectfully yours in Christ

- Pastor Blake W. Shipman



President's Letter August 2021

Greetings to all!

As I write this on August 2d, I am happy to report that we now have new rear doors installed at the back of the church earlier than expected, so the plywood is gone. We still need to receive the electronic components for the card access system, and Roger Johnson is working on the trim, but the rear of the church looks much better now. Repair of the brick support column is going to be expedited, so we should be in good shape again soon.

The stained-glass window appraisal is now scheduled to be conducted in early August, so we are now waiting only for a firm date for repairs to the steeple and roof, as well as an inspection of the bell frame.

As for activity by the Congregation Council, we were recently invited to apply to be a COVID-19 test center for the community. We have applied and await an answer. If approved, this would give us an opportunity to continue our efforts to become a "community" church as part of our outreach efforts. Pastor Emeritus Baltz led the Council through a reading of *the Post Quarantine Church* booklets earlier this summer which discusses the challenges and opportunities facing congregations as a result of the prolonged virus-induced lockdowns. Going forward, the Council will revisit our Strategic Plan approved a few years ago with a focus on the challenges and opportunities presented in the book. The Council has also begun pre-work on what we need to do to smoothly transition to a new fiscal year beginning on November 1st of each year; we are working with Little Learners to develop a transition plan as the current teachers plan to retire in a couple of years; and there is preliminary talk of potential changes to the Welcome Center in the back of the sanctuary to open it up, but at this point it is just a discussion of wants, needs, and architectural limitations. More to come on this possibly in the future.

Finally, I read in the *Galena Gazette* that Chuck Pedersen has submitted his resignation as the Jo Daviess County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator in November, so a special thanks to Chuck for his years of professional service planning for and responding to emergencies here at home, especially the recent COVID-19 pandemic. We are all safer now as a result of his tireless efforts and direction.

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

Bryan Daniel
President





WE'VE GOT MAIL.....



HOSANNA!

Connected with Christ and One Another and Those in Need

July 15, 2021

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
228 N Bench Street
Galena, IL 61036

Dear Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the children of Mendi, Ethiopia and Pastor Abdi Tadesse, I thank you for your faithful, continued support of the Rescue A Generation Christian Ministry. We have received your generous contribution of \$122.00. Your ongoing support, through your faithful prayers and financial contributions, are a blessing to the children of Mendi. The members of St. Matthew are making a strong, positive difference in the lives of these children who are among the "least of these."

This ministry provides Christian mentorship, fellowship, and educational support to children who face difficult life circumstances and suffer extreme poverty. Without support such as yours, these children would not get an education or come to know Jesus as deeply as our ministry can provide. As we have seen with children who have finished university because of this ministry, your support enables them to help the next generation. So, the benefits of your support multiply!

Today the ministry supports about 120 youth. They range in age from early elementary school to university. We provide for all of the costs of going to school including tuition, fees, supplies, and uniforms. We manage a youth center in Mendi where Pastor Solomon, who is the local director in Mendi, provides Christian support through fellowship and mentorship. In cases of life-threatening illness, we are even able to assist in getting medical support. Your gifts go far and do so much!

The children of Mendi know that you care for them and pray for them. Please continue to include the people of Ethiopia and Mendi in your prayers. Again, thank you for such faithful support!

Sincerely,


Pastor John P. Nelson
Senior Pastor

A Lutheran Congregations In Mission for Christ (LCMC) Church

John P. Nelson, Senior Pastor
Jason Ginsburg, Associate Pastor

Phone: (630) 584-6434
Fax: (630) 584-6435
Web: www.HosannaChurch.com

36W925 Red Gate Road
St. Charles, IL 60144

Dubuque Glass Installers, with help from Bryan Daniels and Roger Johnson, completed the first phase of the new rear doors installation. In the near future we will restore Proximity card access to the right side door, install the needed sweeps at the bottom of each door, and complete the interior wood trim installation. The new doors look good and function very well.

Roger Johnson.



OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

If you would like to give to our mission of the month, please put your donation in an envelope marked AUGUST 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"



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

MISSION OPPORTUNITY FOR LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS:

KEEP OUR MOST VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS COVID SAFE THROUGH VACCINES AND MORE

Imagine knowing a vaccine exists that can keep your family safe from COVID-19, but that your loved ones may never get it — because you live in one of the world's poorest countries.

Every day, millions of people in the U.S. are being vaccinated. Maybe you've already felt the relief of knowing you're protected. But our neighbors in the poorest countries are in danger of being left behind, simply because of where they were born. A vaccine may not reach them for years, if ever.

Right now, more than 70 million people worldwide have been forced from their homes by disaster or conflict. Many have nothing but the clothes on their backs. Some have no idea where their next meal will come from. Still, they are our neighbors, and they are precious in God's sight.

Your congregation's love can reach these neighbors wherever they are — even in makeshift camps, huddled in tents that buckle against the wind. With swift action, your congregation's generosity will ensure even the most vulnerable have access to the vaccine, along with other essentials they need to survive.

**Your congregation
can help save lives.**

Building on the skills and relationships of our local staff in places where your love is already at work, Lutheran World Relief will leverage existing partnerships to reach our vulnerable neighbors in the most forsaken corners of the world. Our longstanding relationships in communities will enable LWR to boost confidence in the vaccine and ensure equitable access for everyone, everywhere.

**Will your congregation
join us in reaching these
vulnerable neighbors?**

GIFTS OF LOVE FOR OUR POOREST NEIGHBORS

Our Lutheran World Relief family is amazing. Your compassion and generosity — and your outpouring of love and support for our neighbors in need — has been extraordinary.

As you continue to take care of yourself, your family, and your neighbors and communities, I pray you are in a position to reach out and help our global neighbors — people with the very least who are living in the most fragile places on earth.

In these desperate times, I hope you are able to consider giving a lifesaving gift from this Special COVID-19 Edition of LWR GIFTS.

Stay safe and be well,



Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President & CEO

Our neighbors in the world's most vulnerable places need your love — now more than ever. God bless you.

Personal Hygiene Kit



\$10

In places where those who have the very least are the most at risk, a care package of personal hygiene supplies, including much-needed soap, can save lives.

Send 25 Masks



\$25

You can help slow the spread of COVID-19 in fragile communities worldwide. Your gift sends 25 masks to at-risk people who need them most.

Emergency Medical Supplies



\$75

Frontline health care workers need your help. Given worldwide demand, your gift of emergency medical supplies will save the lives of those with the very least.

Hospital Visit



\$125

Your gift will help ensure people infected with the coronavirus can see a doctor who can help them heal and teach them how to prevent the spread of the virus.

Protective Suit



\$180

COVID-19 is a deadly risk for health care workers fighting to save lives. You can help deliver critical equipment to those in the worst of circumstances.

Handwashing Station



\$500

Clean water is a basic necessity far too many people don't have. You can save lives by installing handwashing stations where they're needed most.

Give lifesaving gifts at: lwr.org/covid-19 or call, toll-free: 800 597 5972



YOUR CONGREGATION'S GENEROSITY MAY BE THEIR ONLY HOPE

OUMAR DICKO is the elected leader of the Senou Camp, a collection of more than 200 blue tarp tents in a vacant field on the outskirts of Bamako, Mali's capital city. The dusty camp is home to more than 1,000 people who have fled ongoing conflict in the north and central parts of the country. Though these families have found refuge from the violence that drove them from their homes, Dicko says he and his neighbors in Senou are far from safe.

Severe droughts have made it impossible to grow food around the camp, and most families have no source of income to buy what they need. Malnutrition is common and, since the pandemic began, growing even more widespread. Most rely on the kindness of strangers to survive. Clean water is scarce, and sanitation is poor, leading Dicko to fear the arrival of COVID-19.

"These tents are so close together," he says, looking out on the sea of tents. "If we get even one case here, I know everyone will get it. We know about the vaccine. We know supply is not sufficient, and we know it's hard to get."



With your gift, your congregation will be part of the largest global health effort in human history and reach those who would otherwise be forgotten.

Without widespread access to the vaccine, COVID-19 will continue to mutate and spread – taking lives and trapping families in deeper poverty. You can love our most vulnerable neighbors by making sure they have access to the vaccine and other critical ways to stay healthy.

Your gift will:

- Equip clinics across Africa, Asia and Latin America to receive and store the vaccine
- Train health care workers to deliver the doses and coordinate vaccination campaigns
- Provide essentials for survival, including masks, clean water for drinking and handwashing, and emergency food assistance for families in refugee and displacement camps.

Because everyone, everywhere is worthy of love.



The needs are urgent. Please join us in reaching these vulnerable neighbors.

Please visit [LWR.ORG/CONGREGATIONS](https://www.lwr.org/congregations) for more information and to download a video to share with your congregation.

Until your love reaches every neighbor.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Please mail gifts to: Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061
Please mark "MISSION21" in the memo.



August 02

August 13

August 19

August 20

August 24

August 25

August 26

August 30

Bryan Daniel

Beverly Coffey Reda

Deanna Gross

Maureen Knipschild

Gail Appel

Rita Wohlers

Jerry Wachter

Cameron Harstad



August 08

Irle & Marilyn Boehm

August 18

Dick & Edie Jones

August 18

John & Tammy Oldenburg

July Financial Information



Income \$8,787.60

Expense \$7,115.24



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 9 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!