



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter September 2020

The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517

[Letter from the Pastor](#)

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

To say this year has been a tough one would be an understatement. At times it feels like we've been through a whirlwind few weeks and at other times it feels as if last month was a year ago. It seems that advent has come early for each of us. Even though we are still in the liturgical season of ordinary time lets talk about advent for a minute.

Advent is the first season of the liturgical calendar. It is the precursor season to Christmas, it is a time of waiting with great anxiety for the Christ child to come into the world of sin and flesh. If you are reading this and resonate with this season well you are not alone. We have been in an elongated Advent season for about seven months now. As soon as the pandemic hit our eyes have been pointed to the promise of better days to come, to the hopes of a vaccine, to the hopes that eventually things will get back to some semblance of normalcy. The lines of an old hymn come to mind. Lost in the night

the people yet languish, longing for morning the darkness to vanquish, plaintively sighing with hearts full of anguish. Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?"

Our cries have been loud this year and full of sorrow. We have seen that which we love taken from us overnight. We have had our fair share of suffering and sorrow and we are tired. Hear the next verse, "Sorrowing wanderers in darkness yet dwelling, dawned has the day of radiance excelling, death's deepest shadows forever dispelling. Christ is coming soon! Christ is coming soon!" In our sorrow God hears our call and our God who has broken the bonds of sin and death will not leave our calls unheard. We see this in the coming of Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, upon the earth for the salvation of the whole of creation. We see this in our world around us as scientists and doctors work tirelessly to produce therapeutics and vaccines to bring our world back to health. The promise of Advent is that the joy of Christmas will indeed follow it. In our season of Advent like waiting joy will come to us as well. While it may not be joy as we see on Christmas day it will be Joy that promises the salvation of the world from the bondage of COVID-19 and looking forward to this day I cry out with you all

Christ is coming soon!

Amen

-Pr. Blake W. Shipman



Income \$5,751.67
Expense \$8,031.99

President's letter - September, 2020

Dear friends,

Please share a bible verse or story with a family member or friend, as a way of uplifting them in this time of separation. This is one my grandmother loved. Micah 6:8 - "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

As we enter our first week of September, I can't help but reminisce about my childhood in Western New York where we always started school the day after Labor Day. How very different it is this year for the children all across our country, some of whom have already started classes virtually, others who are physically attending classes, and still others like my grandson who started classes virtually two weeks ago and who will have their choice of attending virtually or in person after Labor Day. As a retired educator, I know how challenging the beginning of the school year can be for both the teachers and the students. This social distancing makes the entire experience that much more difficult or everyone involved. Please keep the teachers, professors, and

students of our country in your prayers as they truly are the future leaders of our nation.



I received a letter from Birdies for Charity and the John Deere Classic last week regarding the monies earned at that event. Over \$3800 was raised this year for our congregation. Thank you to everyone who worked on or contributed to this project.

It is with great sadness that we learned that long time member and friend, Bob Johnson, passed away suddenly on Friday, August 21. Bob's winning smile and willingness to help with numerous projects around the church will long be remembered. My sympathies are extended to Bobbie, Brett, Roger, and Pam.



One brief note regarding Sunday School. The council decided at its August meeting that we would postpone the beginning of Sunday School at this time due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Hopefully, we will be able to reinstate Sunday School later this fall. We encourage all families to attend worship together, either here at church or virtually on the computer, and you will be informed once we resume in-the-building classes.

Jeannine Steinle celebrated her 90th birthday last week.

God's blessings, Jeannine!



Our congregation is also currently working on adding online worship and learning opportunities via our website which will be updated shortly. The council is also working on the Breeze software rollout and the update of our constitution and bylaws to reflect our new world.

Stay healthy and happy, my friends.

In His service,

Bruce

Is your child missing Sunday School?

Until we can start meeting together again, you may want to consider teaching Sunday school at home.

Here is how it could work:

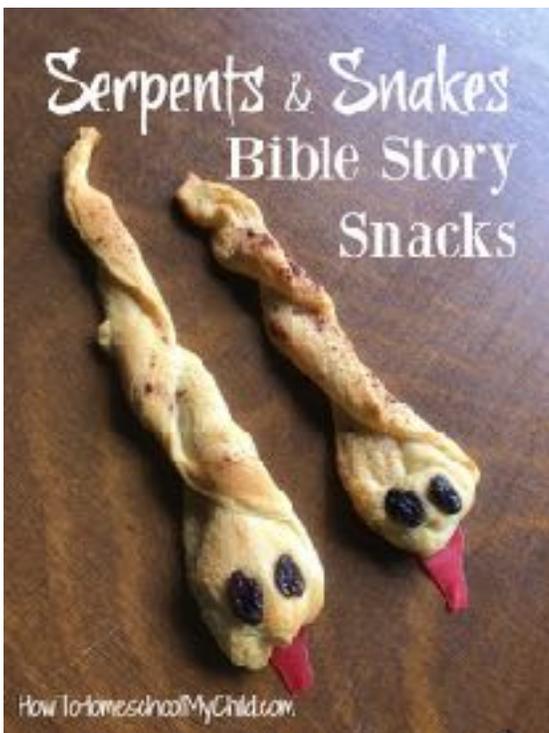
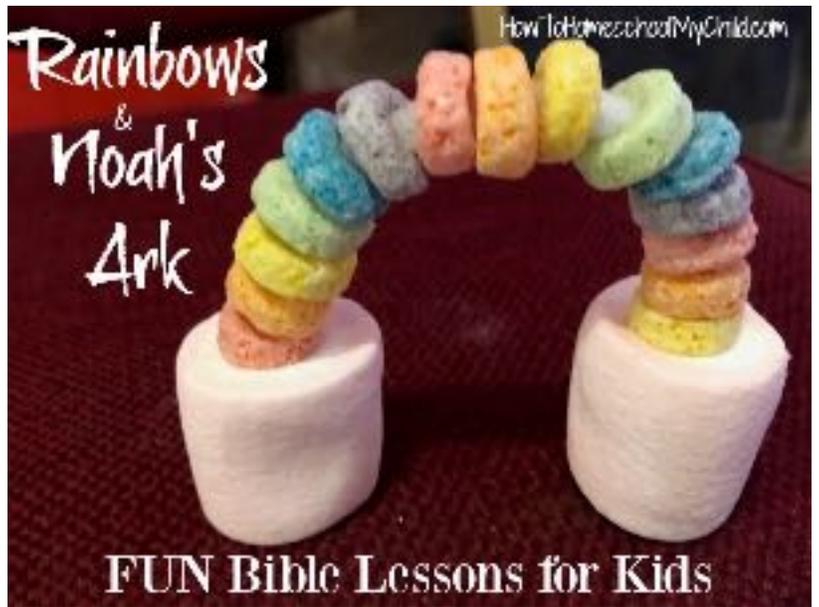
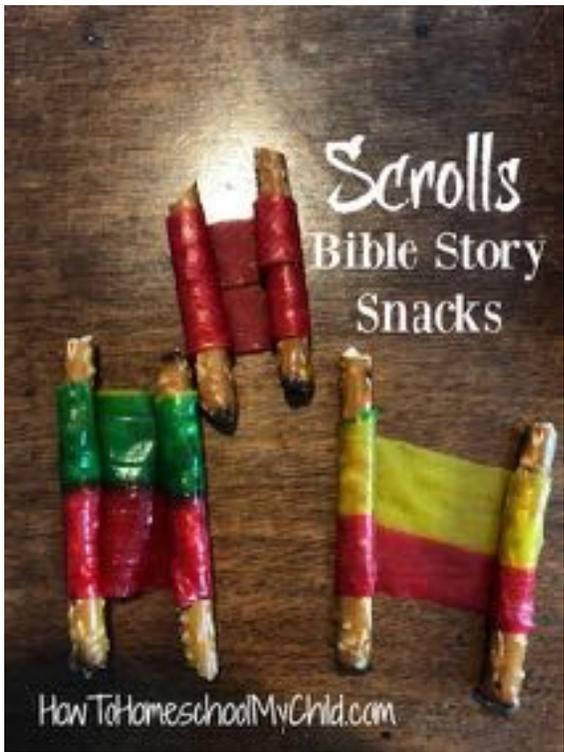
Visit [HowToHomeschoolMyChild.com](https://www.HowToHomeschoolMyChild.com)

Choose a Bible Story.

Read or tell the story to your kids.

Create the coordinating Bible story snacks.

Talk about why the snack goes along with the Bible story lesson.



CELEBRATIONS IN SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 03 Bernadine Anderson
04 Clara Rose Anderson
10 Anna Barry
11 Sam Gross
13 Rhonda Harstad
Pam Johnson
16 Bret Johnson
20 Craig Linn
Rebecca McIntyre
Norman Muehleip
Kathleen Pedersen
27 Todd Vanderlinde
29 James Wächter



ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Timothy & Andrea Gates
18 Chuck & Carolyn Stork





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!

