



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter January, 2017

From the Pastor...

2017! A new year opens for St. Matthew Lutheran Church. What will 2017 bring? James tells us to temper statements about the future with “if the Lord wills” (James 4:15). That way we don’t become too sure of our own plans, forgetting that our plans are fragile and that God is in control. If the Lord wills, our 2017 will be free of trouble, and it will find us faithful every day, doing the work to which we have been called.

There are signs already that God intends to bless us in the year to come. We will go over this in more detail at the annual meeting on January 15. For now I will simply say that your stewardship response has been extraordinarily strong! Remember, last year this congregation knowingly added a pastor to the staff. It was the right thing to do! There was an opportunity that might not come again! We all knew that this would present a financial challenge, and we knew we had reserves if we would need them. Now, as 2017 opens, many more have provided estimates-of-giving than before, and these estimates are most encouraging. If any might have been afraid that this church would find itself in a fiscal downward spiral from last year’s costs, they may be at ease! Your generosity as shown in the estimates of giving indicates a greater strength than ever.

2017 is the 500th anniversary year of the Reformation. We will be celebrating that in various ways through the year. A special fund is being established for this, and contributions are welcome. The crowning event will happen in October on Reformation Sunday. So stay tuned for more about your Reformation heritage.

LCMC calls on all its churches in January to observe 3 days of prayer.

- On January 3 we are asked to offer prayers of confession.
- On the 4th we are asked to pray prayers of petition for the needs of all.
- On the 5th we are to pray for the right vision for the churches.

Every member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ is asked to do this, and I hope you will join me. You can find more about this at <http://www.lcmc.net/three-days-of-prayer/537.html>

I wish to thank Dave Anderson for the photo below. He took it Christmas morning, and it really captures the beauty of the sanctuary where people have celebrated Christmas now for 151 years. Now, it's on to Epiphany, Lent, and Easter.

May 2017 indeed be a wonderful year for you...for us all. May the Lord guide us and keep us to be a blessing to all we meet. May we proclaim the Word of God and serve our neighbor in Christ's name.

Yours in Christ,

Frederick W. Baltz

Pastor Frederick W. Baltz



President's Letter to the Congregation

January, 2017

Dear Members of the Congregation,

I hope you enjoyed a most blessed Christmas with your families and friends. I extend to each of you my best wishes for a wonderful New Year. Let us pray together that the Word of the Lord continues to lead St. Matthew's in 2017.

The Stewardship Drive was a great success! Thank you for your generous support of our church and the speed in which the project was completed. Your cooperation is appreciated for preparing the church's 2017 budget.

My thanks to Pastor Baltz and Dale Knipschild who helped with organizing the drive, to every Council member who lead a "relay" team, and to Ken and Fabi for their administrative assistance.

I hope by now you have picked up your envelopes for the coming year and the new 2017 Church Directory. Many members helped with its production, but I must single out two who gave hours of their time to make this directory happen: Roger Johnson and Dick Beutel. Thank you so much.

I also want to thank the "With These Hands" Ministry for the Christmas tree that benefited many area children in need. What a wonderful way to share our love and compassion with others in the community.

At the December Council meeting, we decided to use our capability to send "email blasts" more often – to inform you of events and happenings – both happy and sad. For example, if we have good news or a reminder to share, we'll send an "email blast". If we have sad news to share, such as the passing of a church member or funeral arrangements, we'll pass that on as well. Our goal is to do a better job of communicating with you.

The Council also selected the following for our 2017 **Special Focus Ministries**:

Ixtapa, Mexico	Schools Kits (Lutheran World Relief)
Riverview Center	Project Comfort
Malaria Project	Children of Mendi
Fill the Well	World Food Crisis
Lutheran Military Veterans	The Workshop

The Riverview Center, with locations in Galena and Dubuque, is new to our list. The Center offers free services including a 24-hour crisis hotline, legal and medical advocacy, long and short term counseling, transition assistance for domestic and sexual violence survivors, and violence prevention education programs.

Please mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting on January 15, 2017, immediately following the 10 a.m. service. We'll vote on the 2017 proposed budget, new Council members, a Nominating Committee and an Auditing Committee. There will also be reports from several standing committees and ministries; our Treasurer, Dick Beutel; our Financial Secretary, Ken Voigt; and of course, Pastor Baltz and myself.

This is also a good time for me to thank those members who have served on the Church Council this year: Marilyn Boehm, Amy Farrey, Tom Hill, Dale Knipschild, Kathleen Pedersen, Dick Beutel, Bruce Etzel, Charlie Marsden, Fran Rogers, and Joanne Carlson. Serving on the Church Council is a serious calling – in terms of time and effort – and Pastor Baltz and I are very grateful for their support, advice and service.

Before I close, there is one other item I would like to bring to your attention. Every day our church is in need of assistance in so many different ways. Please take the time to look through your new Directory. You will see listed many different ministries and opportunities in which you could serve in the coming year, ways in which to proclaim your love of the Triune God and support of your church family.

We always have sign-up sheets in the Welcome Center for many different needs. Please make a New Year's resolution to volunteer in at least one area in 2017. I cannot tell you how much it would be appreciated. It takes many hands, many hours, to support our wonderful church.

Please remember Captain Tim Grass and his family in your thoughts and prayers. A note, a card, a letter all so appreciated.

As I write this letter to you on December 19, the verse of the day is:

Isaiah 49:13

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth, burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

You are always welcome to call or email with your thoughts and questions: 563-424-0129 or njahyman@gmail.com. It is my blessing to be your Church and Congregational President.

Your sister in Christ,
Nancy Hyman

Special Focus Ministry:

The next Focus Ministry, January 1–February 26. Ixtapa, Mexico

Ixtapa Christian Fellowship is my church in Ixtapa, MX.
I go each year and bring donations from St. Matthew Church. Again, I am asking for financial donations to help with missions such as Baby Bundles, Group Home for Seniors, Jailed Inmates and the teaching of hygiene.
Shirley Friedl

KEEPING HIM IN OUR PRAYERS



Timothy Grass has been deployed to Afghanistan, and during his time of service we will keep Tim and his family in our prayers. God's blessings to Tim and to all the people that serve our country. If you wish to send a card or letter to Tim, there is a basket in the Welcome Center. Please place there any correspondence that you would like Andrea to mail to Timothy.

Lending Library

We have a small lending library located in the Welcome Center. Such items as tapes, books (audio and written) are available for check out. Please remember to return what is checked out so the next person can enjoy them as well.

CELEBRATION CORNER FOR JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 1 Jean Prellberg
15 Kris Korte
16 Kimberly Miller
Thomas Vanderlinde
18 Gordon Montgomery
24 Chuck Korte
26 Fred Baltz
29 Bill Fitch

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 11 Robert and Bobbie Johnson
31 Pete (Marion) & Ruth Schmidt

VISIT THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Jeannine Steinle @ The Galena Stauss Nursing Home

Marilyn Muehleip @ The Galena Stauss Assisted Living

Roy Clingman @ The Galena Stauss Assisted Living

Bernice Edwards @ her home, 824 Young St, Galena (815) 777-1835

Velda Schoenfeld @ The Galena Stauss Assisted Living

Pete (Marion) Schmidt @ The Galena Stauss Nursing Home

Ruth Schmidt @ The Galena Stauss Assisted Living.

Please take time to visit our Church friends in the above residences.

SPECIAL REQUEST: If you have an article or a note for the newsletter, please submit it to: fvoigtchurchclerk@gmail.com no later than the 25th of the month. Thank you.

THOSE WHO SERVE IN JANUARY 2017

USHERS & ACOLYTES

Jan. 1 Ken & Fabi Voigt
7 Colleen Stephens
8 Nancy Hyman/
14 Colleen Stephens
15 Dale & Maureen Knipschield
21 Jim Moser
22 Ken & Fabi Voigt
28 Jeff Miller
29 Dale & Maureen Knipschield

LECTORS

Jan. 1 Deb Hyland
7 Dave Anderson
8 Nancy Hyman
14 Colleen Stephens
15 Dale Knipschield
21 Jan Etzel
22 Connie Consedine
28 Jan Etzel
29 Dale Knipschield

OFFERING COUNTERS

Jan. 1 Ken & Fabi Voigt
8 Ken & Fabi Voigt
15 Colleen Stephens/Connie Consedine
22 Ken & Fabi Voigt
29 Ken & Fabi Voigt

COMMUNION SERVERS

Jan. 7 Fran Rogers
8 Ken & Fabi Voigt
28 Bernadine Anderson
29 Nancy Hyman/Connie Consedine

BULLETIN FOLDERS

Jan. 7 Bernadine Anderson
14 Dale Knipschield
21
28 Dale Knipschield

TIME & TALENTS

Serve the Lord by using the “time and talents” that He has given you.

Please remember to sign the “Those Who Serve” sheet located in the Welcome Center. If you switch with someone, please make changes on the sheet in the cry room.

USHERS: Please remain in the back of the church during the service to greet worshipers and provide assistance in case of an emergency.

READERS: An extra copy of each lesson will be located on the lector stand.

Used Ink Cartridges

The Church will gladly accept any size, color, or make of used ink cartridges that you have. Used ink cartridges will be returned to Staples, who in turn will give a \$2 credit to the Church for each one, thereby helping to keep the cost of our office supplies at a minimum. Used ink cartridges may be left in the Office or in the Welcome Center.

Dates to Remember !!!!!

- BS Nursing Home every Tuesday @ 10:00 am
- Each Wednesday Men's Bible Study @ 8:00 am at the hospital
- Each Wednesday Brown Bag Bible Study at noon.
- Jan. 3,4,5- 3 days of prayer
- Jan. 4 Wednesday @ 1:00pm Executive Committee Meeting
- Jan. 5 UCG @9:00am
- Jan. 8 Take down the Christmas Tree & decorations
- Jan.10 & 17 Quilt Tie @ 12:30 pm
- Jan.10 & 24 "With These Hands" @ 2:00 pm
- Jan.11 Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm
- Jan.15 Annual Meeting
- Pastor at ILT Board
- Jan. 28th Healing Service after Communion Service.

Our Church is pleased with has been able to make: We're also have worked on blessed us with the gift of 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each limited to members of the **Donations of yarn and ¾** For information please call:

With These Hands



the number of items that this Ministry shawls, scarves, and lap blankets. some lovely Snow Bears. God has our hands, and we ask you to join us the month @ 2:00pm. This activity is not Church; all are welcome to participate. **inch ribbon are welcome.** Fabi Voigt @ 713-447-6169.

We meet at St. Mathew Lutheran Church located @
127 High St. Galena, IL

Note: If you know someone that needs a prayer shawl, please let us know as well. Thank you.

"With These Hands" would like to thank you for your generosity this year. We started in the later part of March and we made 41 people smile when they received; shawls, blankets & scarfs; it gave us a wonderful feeling that we will always remember. We also made 14 Snow Bears that we gave to the children and we saw how happy they were with them. And what about "With These Hands Christmas Tree"; there were 16 children that you all gave a gift to for Christmas; for all this, we thank you and we know that you will continually help us in the years to come.

Food Donations

Donations of unopened, undamaged food products within the freshness date are accepted at the Food Pantry only on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays (Jan. 12th and 26th). Or you may drop them off at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 127 High St. , 815-777-1134, before the assigned days or @ Illinois Bank & Trust, 971 Gear St. between 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm on the drop off dates. For Information call 815-777-1456

Church Financial Health thru Dec 28, 2016

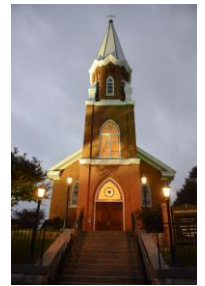
	<u>Dec. 2016</u>	<u>Dec. 2015</u>
Total Income	\$19,620	\$9,026
Total Expenses	\$13,881	\$14,946
Total Net	\$5,739	(\$5,920)

Lost and Found

This corner is increasing in size! Please check "Our Lost and Found Corner" located in the Fellowship Hall on the coat rack.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church
127 South High Street, Galena
www.stmat.net
815 777-1134



Service times: Saturday at 5:30, and Sunday at 10:00

*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.

From our Constitution---



The mission of this congregation is to make disciples for Jesus Christ by going to people within and outside the Church with the message of the Gospel, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them by word and example to obey the Word of the Lord.