



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter February 2018

From the Interim Pastor...

Converts and Their Crosses

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

Jesus (Mark 8:24)

Lent is the season when Christians focus on the demands of discipleship, especially the “giving up” of things that interfere with faithfulness, and other things we could do without (that others may need.)

Many who practice the discipline of Lent have been Christians for years. But all through history some have come to faith as converts. Their stories can be especially beneficial for the long-time Christian. What brought a particular person to faith in the first place? What did it cost that new believer to follow Christ in the world? How did that person take up his/her cross?

That is what we will explore this Lent. Converts and Their Crosses. Some of these converts may surprise you. What they have done may inspire you.

Soup suppers will precede our Lenten services as in other years. I am hoping members and friends of our church will not only come themselves, but will bring someone with them. It is a fine way to share the experience. There are people around us who would appreciate a meal they did not have to prepare themselves.

The Annual Meeting is behind us, and we are on our way into 2018. The Strategic Plan has been adopted, as has the budget, and the Interim Agreement.

As for our video, look for its premiere in Holy Week. I think it will help bring people to the Shroud and Sudarium display.

Pastor Frederick W. Baltz

President's Letter to the Congregation
February 2018

Dear Members of the Congregation,

Thank you for attending the 2018 Annual Meeting. If you were not able to come, copies of the Annual Report are available in the Welcome Center, or please call the church at 815-777-1134 and a report will be set aside for you.

Copies of the minutes from the meeting, the Strategic Plan, the Interim Pastoral Agreement, and the resource "Change Happens" are available in the Welcome Center. 2017 Contribution Statements and 2018 Envelopes are also there. Again, if you would like any of these items held for you, please contact the Church Office.

For those of you who could not attend, David Thompson and Lori Fisher were elected to the Council, first term for each. I was elected to serve a second term. Members elected for the 2018 Auditing Committee were Marilyn Boehm, Jeff Miller and Dale Wohlers. Members elected for the 2018 Nominating Committee were Pastor Baltz, Bruce Etzel and Charles Marsden. Council members will be installed on February 4. Please join me in thanking all of these members for their service.

Three additional items were on the agenda: the Strategic Plan, the Interim Pastoral Agreement, and the 2018 Budget. All three were adopted by the Congregation.

Pastor Baltz has been officially called to serve as our Interim Pastor, until such time that the next pastor is installed.

The new Council will meet on Wednesday, February 7, a week early this month because of Ash Wednesday. At this meeting officers will be elected and announced to the Congregation by the next President. We will also review a list of recommendations, projects and goals for the coming year.

We will definitely be planning repairs to or replacement of the asphalt driveway, sealing the gap running along the foundation of the church, and necessary tuck pointing of the original brick structure. These types of maintenance projects are absolutely vital to maintain the integrity of our beautiful and historic building.

I was recently informed that First Community Bank of Galena gifted St. Matthew \$100 during the Christmas season. Joel Holland, Executive Director of the Bank, has recognized area churches in this manner for many years. There is a copy of our thank you letter to Mr. Holland on the bulletin board. The bank's generosity is greatly appreciated.

Within the next few weeks an announcement will be made as to the formation and training of new "counting teams". In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dick Beutel and Connie Consedine for faithfully counting for many months.

At this time, I wish to announce that Dick Beutel will be resigning from Council and as Treasurer. The Council is extremely grateful for his expertise and efforts this past year, and for his many contributions to the administration and management of our church.

In closing, I ask you to please keep Pastor Baltz and his family, the Council and officers of the church, the staff, and especially the Call Committee, in your prayers. This will be a year of transition, changes, challenges and growth. I see many good and exciting things on the horizon. I'm certain the next President will find great joy in sharing them with you, as I have these past two years.

I leave you with the verse of the day:

Matthew 7: 7-8

**Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds;
and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.**

In His service,
Nancy Hyman
Council and Congregational President

OUR VISION STATEMENT

St. Matthew Lutheran Church will be a vibrant, welcoming and diverse Community of Believers focusing on the Word and living as a Christ-centered Congregation.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As a Christ-centered Congregation we enrich our lives through God's Word, sharing our gifts with all people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Available in the Welcome Center:

**Portals of Prayer and Connections
2017 Contribution Statements
2018 Envelopes
The Annual Report
Minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting
The Strategic Plan
The Interim Pastoral Agreement
"Change Happens" Resource Guide
"Those Who Serve" for February & March**

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Every

Tuesday	10:00 am - Bible Study at The Nursing Home
2nd & 3rd Tuesday	12:30 pm - Quilters
2nd & 4th Tuesday	3:00 pm - With Our Hearts and Hands Ministry
Wednesday	8:30 am - Men's Bible Study
	10:30 am - Prairie Ridge Bible Study
	12:00 pm - Brown Bag Bible Study

Specific Dates

February 7	6:00 pm - Church Council Meeting
February 14	11:00 am - Ash Wednesday
February 22	5:00 pm - Soup Supper
February 22	7:00 pm - Worship

CELEBRATIONS IN February

BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 2	Tammy Oldenburg	Feb. 9	Rachel McIntrye
11	Shirley Friedl		William Reda
	Irl Wm. Boehm	14	Stacy Miller
16	Velda Schoenfeld	18	Cindy Baltz
25	George Daniel	27	Sharon Lorenz

ANNIVERSARIES

14	Gary & Gail Appel	29	Cameron & Rhonda Harsted
----	-------------------	----	--------------------------

Special Focus Missions:

Volunteer Hospice of Northwest Illinois February 2018

Volunteer Hospice of Northwest Illinois is a non-profit, community-based organization serving Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Carroll counties for almost 30 years. Although a free-standing organization, we are able to provide volunteers for surrounding hospices. There is no charge for services and care is available to all ages.

THOSE WHO SERVE IN FEB 2018

USHERS & ACOLYTES (Sat: 1 person, Sun: 2)

Sat.	3	Jim Moser
Sun.	4	Nancy Hyman
Sat.	10	
Sun.	11	
Sat.	17	Jeff Miller
Sun.	18	
Sat.	24	Jim Moser
Sun.	25	

Bulletin Folders (1 or 2) - 10:00 am Sat. Morning

Sat.	3	Jan Etzel
Sat.	10	Bernadine Anderson
Sat.	17	Bernadine Anderson
Sat.	24	

LECTORS (1 Person)

Sat.	3	Colleen Stephens
Sun.	4	Nancy Hyman
Sat.	10	Dave Anderson
Sun.	11	Kathy Pedersen
Sat.	17	Dave Anderson
Sun.	18	Cindy Baltz
Sat.	24	
Sun.	25	Cindy Baltz

COMMUNION (Sat: 1; Sun: 2)

Sat.	10	Ken & Fabi Voigt
Sun.	11	
Sat.	24	Fran Rogers
Sun.	25	Nancy Hyman

Please submit articles, pictures or information for the newsletter to contact.stmatt@gmail.com no later than the 25th of the month.

Office News

If you need to contact Stacy Meade, Church Clerk, or Tom Staver, Financial Secretary, please call the church office at 815-777-1134 or email contact.stmatt@gmail.com. There is an "in box" on the desk in the office for messages, notes, receipts, etc. Please include your name, phone number and instructions in case there are questions.



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

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

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.