



The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter February 2020

[Letter from the Vice President](#)

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Greetings Members and Friends of St Matthew Lutheran Church.

As usual, things have been busy at “our little church on the hill” even though we have been stuck in the darkness of winter. And, there is much on the horizon for us to do.

We had a successful Annual Meeting on January 19. A quorum was established even though we had typical Annual Meeting weather. St Matthew is a busy congregation. Much was accomplished in 2019, and there is much to do in 2020. Check out the Annual Report if you have not done so already. Thank you to all for your gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure that makes our Work of the Lord possible.

Council members Bryan Daniel, Charles Marsden, and Todd Vanderlinde were all elected to second terms. Wyatt Anderson opted to not serve a second term. Thank you, Wyatt, for your service to St Matthew. Council members for 2020 are Connie Consedine, Bryan Daniel, Bruce Etzel, Lori Fisher, Charles Marsden, Jeff Miller, Pastor Blake Shipman, Dave Thompson, Todd Vanderlinde and Tonya Vanderlinde. Officers will be elected at the February 12 Council meeting and will be reported in the March newsletter. The Constitution allows for up to 12 Council members. So, **we plan on recruiting two additional members** so that we have a full slate in 2020. **Are you interested?**

The budget was approved at the Annual Meeting. This budget allows us to continue to expand the programs we have while again operating in the black. The Congregation is in good financial condition and we received a very good audit report from Academy Advisors.

You might have seen the photographers at church on Sunday, January 26. New photography is the last step as we modernize our website, improve our Facebook page and expand our newsletter. You will even get a 360 degree view from atop our steeple! Earlier this year we completed the development of our church's logo which appeared on the cover of the Annual Report. This has been a special project spearheaded this past year by Pastor Blake. Kim Miller is adding that extra touch to this effort of improving our communications with members and friends. Look for more of this in 2020.

Upcoming events at St Matthew include a presentation by **Tammy Vanausdoll on the organization "Mothers in Prayer" at the February 9 service.** Mothers in Prayer is an organization whose mission is to pray for our schools. **Dr. Karen Black will be performing an organ recital featuring our beautiful Johannus organ.** She is the Rudi Inselmann Endowed Professorship in Organ at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. **The recital will take place on February 22 at 2:00 p.m.** Mark your calendars, tell your friends and bring a friend!

Please also mark your calendars as it is time to go to the movies. **On February 18 Part 1 of *The Red Sea Miracle* will be shown in both Dubuque theaters.** Various writers and teachers from the United States, Europe and the Middle East will present their cases for where they think Moses and Israel crossed the Red Sea. **Pastor Emeritus Baltz will appear in Part 2, in theaters on May 5.** These two films are from award winning producer Timothy Mahoney. Sound

familiar? We covered this in Brown Bag Bible Study back in 2018 when we studied Exodus.

The **wedding of Lydia Vanderlinde and Logan Bush** took place in our sanctuary on January 25. Congratulations and God's Blessings!

Council has approved the formation of a committee to evaluate our Music Ministry in accordance with our Strategic Plan. The committee will then develop a plan to search for a new music director and organist. A number of contacts have been identified throughout the Midwest involving people who can assist us in identifying and recruiting the talent necessary to continue our wonderful Music Ministry. In the meantime, we will continue to incorporate several guest musicians into our worship services. **Thank you to Tonya Vanderlinde** for your service to St Matthew.

Lastly, we are always looking for people to serve in the Work of the Lord. Please **consider signing up for "Those Who Serve"** on the sheet in the welcome center, or if you have other time and talents to offer let us know. If you have any thoughts, ideas or questions, please see Pastor Blake.

In the meantime, think Spring as we move ever closer to Ash Wednesday, Lent and the Resurrection of Our Lord!

In God's Service

Charles Marsden
St Matthew Vice President

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHURCH

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Every

Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study at Nursing Home
Wednesday	8:30 am	Men's Bible Study
2 nd /3 rd Tuesday	12:30 pm	Quilters
2 nd /4 th Tuesday	3:00 pm	With Our Hearts and Hands Ministry

Specific Dates

February 08	5:30 pm	Communion
February 09	10:00 am	Communion
February 12	5:30 pm	Council Meeting
February 22	2:00 pm	Organ Concert
February 23	5:30 pm	Communion
February 26	10:00 am	Communion (Ash Wed)

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Birthdays

02	Tammy Oldenburg
09	Rachel McIntyre William Reda
11	Shirley Friedl Irle W. Brehm
14	Stacy Miller
16	Velda Schoenfeld
18	Cindy Baltz Sarah Miller
25	George Daniel

Anniversaries

14	Gary and Gail Apple
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SPECIAL FOCUS MISSION

Volunteer Visitors of Northwest Illinois
February 2020

The Volunteer Visitors of Northwest Illinois, formerly known as Hospice of Northwest Illinois, is a volunteer organization that provides education, resources and care to those in need. Hospice volunteers help their patients live out their final days in dignity and peace. They form close bonds with their clients and families and mourn with them. Hospice volunteers provide education in nutrition, the dying process and symptom control. The last good thing that may happen in a person's life is a hospice volunteer.

Please join them by providing your financial support.



Hey! Did you know our church is on Facebook?

Social Media can be a great way for our members to congregate outside of our church walls. We can share exciting things going on in our lives.

Potential visitors will first check out our website and then immediately hop to Facebook to check us out. The #1 thing that people are looking for in a church is to feel at home when they go there. They want to belong. Can you imagine a potential visitor checked out our Facebook page just to find a warm and welcoming community of people interacting with each other online? I know that is a church I would love to go to!

With this in mind, we need your help. Facebook has algorithms that dictate how often posts are seen. To beat this and ensure that our posts are reaching a large audience, we need to interact with each other on posts. Go to our Facebook page and like it! Then comment on our posts.....

A LIKE is good, a COMMENT is better and a SHARE is great!

If you have something you would like to have posted on our page, please send it to Kim Miller and it will be posted.

January Financial Information

Income \$11,391.12

Expenses \$9,238.98

Net Gain \$2,152.14

Organ Concert Here

February 22 at 2 pm

Free! Bring A Friend!! Open to All!

Dr. Karen Black is the Rudi Inselmann Endowed Professor of
Organ at Wartburg College





Please submit articles, pictures or information for the newsletter to contact.stmatt@gmail.com no later than the 28th of the month.

Church Office News

If you need to contact Kim Miller, 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 inbox on the desk in the office for messages, receipts, etc. Please include your name, phone number and instructions in case there are questions.

“Many hands make light work.”

You have heard that expression before, but its true. We have plenty of ways you can help our church run smoothly. Check out the sign up sheets in the Welcome Center. Not sure how to do the job? No worries. We will train you!





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!

