



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter March 2018

From the Pastor...



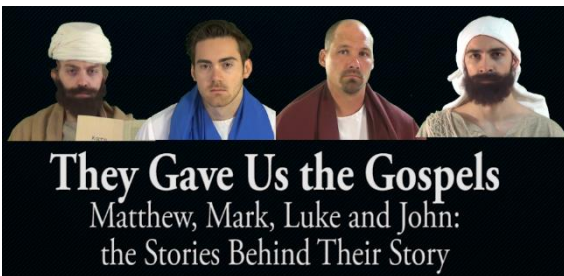
Which of these is a sign of Spring? (Correct answer: all three.)

Yes, I have recently seen Red Wing Blackbirds and Robins that have returned from more southern regions. We are all about to see palms. Each Spring brings Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. I hope you will join me to make the most of it all.

For a church our size we have an amazing schedule of opportunities in month. First, The Aurora University Chorale and Chamber Choir will be March 4, for a free concert at the church. These ensembles are Dr. Lisa Fredenburgh. This concert has come to us with little advanced help spread the word. The concert will be mostly sacred music, for the season. If you are looking for a lovely way to welcome the March, you will find it.



the coming here Sunday, directed by notice. Please appropriate month of



When Holy Week arrives, please note that our Palm Sunday service will happen at 10:00 A.M., a service with palms as in other years. I am happy to announce to you that *we will be receiving new members within the service that day.* Immediately afterward (11:15) the first public showing of They Gave Us the Gospels will take place at the church. Later that same day showings will again happen at 4:00 P.M., and 7:00 P.M.

Starting Wednesday of Holy Week our detailed copy of the Shroud will go on display. That night I will present a free program, "Forty Years of Shroud Research: What the Discoveries Say." The Shroud copy, along with our full size image of the Sudarium of Oviedo, will be available for viewing and contemplation

Wednesday from 4:00-7:00 P.M.; Thursday and Good Friday from 4:00-7:00 P.M.; Saturday 10:00 A.M.-Noon.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday we will meet for worship at 7:00 P.M.

Please be aware that choir practice follows the Lenten services in March, at 7:45 P.M. If you have ever considered being part of our choir, this would be a good time. Please just call Jan Etzel, and ask her any questions you may have.

One last thing: Daylight Saving Time begins March 11. Set your clocks accordingly. See you in church.

Pastor Frederick W. Baltz

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.

CALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Call Committee consists of Tanya Vanderlinde, Wayne McIntrye, Bill Fitch, Deb Hyland, Connie Consedine, Janet Etzel and all were present at the first meeting on January 29th to begin the process of seeking a new Pastor. This meeting primarily was to set up a 3 month meeting schedule and to determine individual job responsibilities. We also began discussing some of the qualities and abilities we should look for in a Pastor.

The second meeting of the Committee was February 15th with all members present to continue discussion on what additional knowledge and attributes are desired in our next Pastor. It was noted that a Call Committee workshop to learn about the call process will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church LCMC in Marion, IA., on Saturday March 3rd, a one day event. It was discussed and agreed that a majority of our Committee would be available and would attend this workshop.

Submitted by,
Bill Fitch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention all singers:

Choir will resume on Thursday, March 1 at 7:45 following the Lenten service. We will be working on music for holy week and the Spring season through Pentecost. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Any questions, call Jan at 815-541-4888.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS

Easter Lily order forms are available in the Welcome Center.

2018 Offering Envelopes are in the Welcome Center.

2017 Contribution Statements are also in the Welcome Center.

If you are making a contribution to the Special Focus Ministry of the month, or for any other specific need or designation, please note this clearly on your envelope or check.

Whenever possible, please use your offering envelopes and write a check, rather than giving cash. Your contributions are tracked by the number on your offering envelope.

Thank you!

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 (No Brown Bag Bible Study on March 28)
Thursday	5:00 pm - Soup Supper
	7:00 pm - Worship

Specific Dates

March 4	4:00 pm - The Aurora University Chorale And Chamber Choir
March 14	6:00 pm - Church Council Meeting
March 25	11:15 am - "They Gave Us the Gospels"
March 25	4:00 pm - "They Gave Us the Gospels"
March 25	7:00 pm - "They Gave Us the Gospels"
March 28	7:00 pm - "Forty Years of Shroud Research: What the Discoveries Say"
March 30	7:00 pm - Worship

CELEBRATIONS IN MARCH

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	
March	2	March	19
	3		21
	17		
	18		
	20		
	23		

Roy Clingman	Dick & Corinne Beutel
John Carlson	Bill & Elaine Fitch
Dave Anderson	
Kathy Marsden	
Jim Moser	
Timothy Grass	
Gary Appel	
Bruce Etzel	

Special Focus Missions:

Malaria Bed Nets Project

March 2018

One of the world's great paradoxes, malaria was eradicated in many parts of the world during the last century, but its devastating toll has doubled in the world's poorest communities. In Africa, it takes the lives of nearly one million people annually and is the number one killer of children. Malaria No More supports the purchase, distribution, and necessary education around the provision of bed nets to protect Tanzanian women and children at risk of malaria infection.

At Malaria No More, we envision a world where no child dies from a mosquito bite. We use our innovative partnerships and focused advocacy to elevate malaria on the global health agenda, create political good will and mobilize the global resources required to achieve malaria eradication within a generation.

This ministry will help prevent malaria. For example, \$1 buys medicine to cure one person, and \$10 buys one bed net.

The cure for this killer of 1 million per year is simple:

- Know the symptoms
- Get treated
- Use bed nets

For more information, please go to: www.lutheranmalaria.org

Please clearly mark your envelope or check "Malaria Bed Nets" and your donation will be forwarded to Lutheran World Relief.

January contributions for The Workshop totaled \$30.00.

Thank you.

Counting Teams Update

A change in our approach to counting the offering is required because of the lack of volunteers to count after the Sunday service or early the following week. Counting the offering, preparing the deposit, and posting to the computer will be handled by Tom Staver, Financial Secretary, at his office at Academy Advisors, Bench and Franklin Streets, Galena.

Following the Sunday service, we would like the Usher to deliver the offering to the night depository at US Bank, downtown Galena. Other members will be asked to serve as "Couriers": to pick up the offering at the bank, deliver it to Tom, assist while the deposit is prepared, and then return the offering to US bank for deposit.

We estimate the Courier job to take less than 45 minutes. Counting will be done every Tuesday at 10 am.

Familiarity with computers will no longer be required! Beginning in March, Couriers may sign up to help on the "Those Who Serve" sheet in the Welcome Center. To train those interested, there will also be a short class on Sunday, March 4, in the Parish Hall immediately following the 10 am service, for both Ushers and Couriers. If you have questions, please call Connie Consedine 815-777-4354 or Nancy Hyman 563-424-0129.

We hope this new procedure will simplify our counting process and enable more members to help.

Thank you, Connie and Nancy.

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.