



## St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter March 2019

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior

March is here! Even better Saint Patrick's Day is on a Sunday! Saint Patrick was kidnapped by Celts as a child and escaped. He received an education and then felt called to bring the Gospel to those very people who kidnapped him years earlier. His life and witness to the gospel and to those people who have never heard its words of salvation always leave me in awe. There is a hymn accredited to him called *I Bind Unto Myself Today* that has been speaking to me these past few days. The opening verse says this, "I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity by invocation of the same, the three in one and one in three." How fitting is this image? We by no means can enter the mission field without protection and we cannot provide this protection. What better armor than the promise found in the Triune God?

As I settle into the office, books are beginning to populate my shelves, Fred and I sit down on Fridays and talk about a wide variety of topics from koine Greek to modern church history, and I am going around town meeting local officials and other clergy members. Just yesterday I went to Galena Bible and introduced myself to Pastor Gary and Adam, a few weeks back I met Chief Huntington of the Galena PD and Sherriff Turner and I am still trying to get to Mayor Renner, but it seems our schedules are on two different tracks. I have office hours Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in the afternoon, and Fridays all day for the remainder of the school year. I also have a business line set up so you can reach me, and that number is 815-348-9770. Great things are in the works for this congregation and I am excited to see how we grow into this new reality we all face. If we stick to our model of gospel-based preaching and ministry together nothing is too far out of reach.

Yours in Christ

-Pastor Blake Shipman

## **President's Report**

We are reminded during this season of lent how blessed we are to be free of all our sins, thanks to Jesus's love.

The February Council meeting saw the signing of the contract call with Pastor Blake Shipman. The Council has three new members: Tanya Vanderlinde, Connie Consedine, and Jeff Miller. The officers of this year's Council are as follows: Bryan Danial is Secretary, Connie Consedine is Treasurer, Charlie Marsden is Vice-President, and Bruce Etzel is President.

Sunday, February 20, 2019 marked the installation of Council members for 2019 and the installation of Blake Shipman as pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Pastor Phil Gronbach of New Life Lutheran Church in Sterling, IL, who baptized Blake as an infant, participated in the installation. Pastor Blake's mother, father, family and numerous friends were in attendance for this celebration.

Our new organ is finally due to arrive from the Netherlands. The projected date of arrival into this country is March 4 with installation of the instrument sometime the next week. Jan is excited to have the beautiful new organ up and running before our Easter celebration. A dedication organ recital is being planned for later this spring. More information on that will be forthcoming.

In His service,  
Bruce Etzel  
President, St. Matthew Lutheran Church

**ATTENTION ALL SINGERS!!!**

Choir will resume on Thursday, March 28 at 6:00 pm. Hopefully, many of our snowbirds will have returned to the area by then! We will be working on pieces for Easter and Holy Week. Any questions see Jan at church or call her at 815-541-4888.

See you then!

**Holy Land Tour, September 2-15**

Pastor Emeritus Frederick Baltz will lead a tour of the Holy Land this fall, and the experience is open to everyone. On the itinerary are important sites from the Old and New Testaments. You can find the itinerary and other information at this link:

<http://tristatetravel.com/files/2019/02/0219HolyLandTouritin.pdf>

Pastor Baltz will be happy to answer any questions you may have as well.

**EVENTS THIS MONTH**

**Every**

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

**Specific Dates**

March 6	7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Service - Communion
March 9	5:30 pm - Communion
March 10	10:00 am - Communion
March 13	5:30 pm - Church Council Meeting
March 28	6:00 pm - Choir
March 30	5:30 pm - Communion
March 31	10:00 am - Communion

**REMINDER: Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Saving Time Begins (move clocks one hour forward)**

**CELEBRATIONS IN MARCH**

**BIRTHDAYS**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

March	3	John Carlson	March	21	Bill & Elaine Fitch
	17	Dave Anderson			
	17	Kathy Marsden			
	18	Jim Moser			
	18	Timothy Grass			
	20	Gary Appel			
	23	Bruce Etzel			

## THOSE WHO SERVE IN MARCH 2019

Weekend

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

### LECTORS (1 Person)

1	Sat.	2	<u>Bill &amp; Elaine Fitch</u>	Sat.	2	<u>Jan</u>
1	Sun.	3	<u>Ken &amp; Fabi Voigt</u>	Sun.	3	<u>Cindy</u>
2	Sat.	9	<u>Jim Moser</u>	Sat.	9	<u>Jan</u>
2	Sun.	10	<u></u>	Sun.	10	<u>Connie Consedine</u>
3	Sat.	16	<u></u>	Sat.	16	<u></u>
3	Sun.	17	<u></u>	Sun.	17	<u>Cindy</u>
4	Sat.	23	<u>Jim Moser</u>	Sat.	23	<u>Colleen</u>
4	Sun.	24	<u>Dick &amp; Edie Jones</u>	Sun.	24	<u>Edie</u>
	Sat.	30	<u></u>	Sat.	30	<u></u>
5	Sun.	31	<u>Dale &amp; Maureen Knipschild</u>	Sun.	31	<u>Dale Knipschild</u>

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

### COMMUNION ( Sat: 1; Sun: 2)

Sat.	2	<u>Jackie Miller</u>	Wed	6	<u>Fran Rogers</u>
Sat.	9	<u>Jackie Miller</u>	Sat.	9	<u></u>
Sat.	16	<u></u>	Sun.	10	<u>Ken &amp; Fabi Voigt</u>
Sat.	23	<u>Edie Jones</u>	Sat.	30	<u>Jim Moser</u>
Sat.	30	<u>Edie Jones</u>	Sun.	31	<u>Fabi</u>

### Counting Couriers - 10:00 am Tuesday

Tues.	5	<u>Connie Consedine</u>
Tues.	12	<u>Connie Consedine</u>
Tues.	19	<u>John Klinkner</u>
Tues.	26	<u>John Klinkner</u>

**February Financial Information**

February Income	\$ 5,097.29	YTD \$ 21,462.67
February Expense	\$ 9,523.82	YTD \$ 14,943.96

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

**Church 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](mailto:contact.stmatt@gmail.com). There is an inbox 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](http://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.