



## St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter April, 2017

From the Pastor...

Lent nears its conclusion and Easter will soon be here. All along the way and into the future, God willing, we will continue to be active with worship, proclamation of the Word, and serving.

In Holy Week--

- Wednesday evening at 7:00, free public program on the Shroud of Turin, Technology and the Age of the Cloth
- Shroud and Sudarium copies available for viewing  
Wednesday through Friday from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
- Maundy Thursday service, 7:00 P.M.
- Good Friday service, 7:00 P.M.
- Saturday worship, 5:30 P.M.
- Easter Sunrise service, 7:00 A.M.
- Easter Holy Communion, 10:00 A.M.

Please note these events for Holy Week. I encourage you to bring a friend to all of them. Once again we will make available to all our facsimile of the Shroud of Turin (claimed to be the actual burial cloth of Jesus). We now also have a full-size color photograph of the Sudarium of Oviedo (claimed to be the actual face cloth used following Jesus' crucifixion). We will display it as well. The intensive, long-standing investigations of both these objects has yielded fascinating results, and the work goes on. Though not without challenge, the overwhelming majority of the evidence points towards the legitimacy of both items.

When the results of the carbon 14 testing in 1988 said the Shroud was a clever fraud from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, many stopped listening. To this day that is all they know. Since 1988 a major flaw has been found in the way the carbon 14 samples were tested, and new technology has been developed for dating old textiles.

Authorities from many fields of knowledge gather periodically to present papers at international conferences about the Shroud. In 2014 I had the privilege of presenting a paper in St. Louis at such a conference, and I have been accepted as a presenter this summer for another. So, I have had the chance to meet some of these people whose names appear in the books, the TV specials, the videos, and the articles. Nuclear science, materials engineering, botany, biology, blood chemistry, textile study...these are some of the fields of study represented.

Wouldn't you think there should be somebody representing the field of New Testament study? Well, that's where I come in. In July I will be presenting to the international conference a detailed study of the John 20 passage about the discovery of Jesus' empty tomb. What did they see—and what didn't they see?

In Holy Week, on Wednesday night at 7:00 P.M., I will present here a status report on the study of the age of the cloth. For if the Shroud of Turin is really from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century it cannot be the burial cloth of Jesus. If, as the evidence *strongly* suggests, the cloth is much older, we may possess an item of history that affirms the biblical narratives while it also denies explanation.

We do not base our resurrection faith on this or any piece of cloth. But when all the evidence is in, “the ball is in their court” (the skeptics', that is). The burden of proof falls on those who would deny the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin and also the Sudarium of Oviedo.

You will not find a program such as this, complete with full size facsimiles of the the cloths, in major cities across the United States, but you will find all this in Galena. Please bring a friend and contemplate the events of Holy Week and Easter in a most unusual way.

I would also ask you to give your prayerful consideration to a meal ministry from this church in the future. “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...” (Matthew 25:42). Is there yet another way that we as a church can help people around us who struggle to have adequate food for themselves and their children? Could we offer a meal...once a year...more often? These are questions for us to discuss and explore after church on Sunday, April 23. I hope you will come.

On April 30 we will confirm Thomas Vanderlinde at the 10:00 A.M. service. Thomas has worked diligently with me studying the Bible and the Small Catechism to reach this point. We will all celebrate after the service in the dining room of the Parish Hall.

A basket for cards honoring Thomas, as well as our three younger girls who have completed their instruction for Communion (Lila Anderson, Izabella Farrey, and Grace McIntyre) is in the Welcome Center.

It is our turn to host Vacation Bible School. We will have an introductory meeting with any volunteers from the participating churches on Tuesday, April 4, at 7:00 P.M. Place: St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

The program I have chosen for this year is not one of the commercially available ones (nine at last count, each with an introductory kit that by itself is quite an investment). I have chosen: Retro VBS with Fast Forward Friday. As I have heard people tell of their own VBS days it seemed that we might try simply to capitalize on that while we emphasize Jesus each day. So, nothing fancy—cookies and Kool-Aid, crafts, music like “Kids Under Construction”, an occasional video of Veggie Tales or Davy and Goliath... I think some parents and grandparents will like this idea, and maybe they will also volunteer to help. Let's make it VBS like it used to be, or at least like many fondly remember it to be.

VBS will take place June 12-16, the week following the Golf Outing.

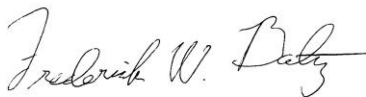
And finally, this invitation from Pastor Bruce Lerum:

This is Bruce Lerum from Christ the Victor in AZ. I recall that you wanted to know when another South Africa mission trip was happening. There is a group looking to go June 14-26. They will be in Cape Town with an organization we have been associated with for about five years and collaborated on four trips – <http://www.orchardafrica.org/> My wife and I have led two of those and Larry and & Judy Kassebaum led the other two. The cost, depending on what the airfare is, will be somewhere in the \$3300 - \$3500 range . Included in the cost are all arrangements and costs from the time you land in Cape Town to the time you leave – accomodations, meals, transportation. There is room for five or six more to go. It occurred to me that you had said there may be some from your congregation interested in going, though you may not be able to field an entire group for a trip.

Any and all are most welcome and I pray the short notice is not a hinderance. It is an awesome experience.

Blessings to you and all at St. Matthews as, together, we celebrate our risen Savior.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Frederick W. Baltz

### **President's Letter to the Congregation** **April 2017**

Dear Members of the Congregation,

I pray each of you finds great joy in the coming month as we celebrate Christ's Holy Passion through weekly Lenten services and the Holy Days of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. In addition, Pastor will host another Shroud of Turin event for the community on Wednesday, April 12, at 7 pm. He will discuss recent technological advances in dating techniques of the Shroud. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

I wish to thank Pastor, Council members, staff, and all volunteers who have worked so hard to make this Easter season meaningful and inspiring. I pray that each member and friend of St. Matthew's finds comfort and peace in knowing that Christ rose from the grave and is waiting for you in heaven.

At the March Council meeting, Pastor announced that St. Matthew's will be hosting this year's Vacation Bible School in June. He's planning a "retro" VBS experience using old songs, activities and treats - think cookies and Kool-Aid - to make this year's VBS experience unique, fun and exciting. Details will follow. Volunteers are needed to make VBS a groovy success!

Have you noticed the wonderful and informative “Roots in the Reformation” full-page inserts in the Gazette? Re-prints are available in the Welcome Center. When the series is completed, framed copies will be hung in the church.

Thank you for your support of the Riverview Center, our Special Focus Ministry last month. This is the first time we have sponsored the organization. Robyn Davis, a clinical psychologist with the Center, addressed the congregation last month.

Spring cleaning of the church will take place on Saturday, April 22. Many hands will make this project a clean sweep! Please contact Dale Knipschild for more information.

Believe it or not, the first Golf Outing meeting was held Monday, March 27. This year’s event will be on Thursday, June 8. This is our church’s main fundraiser for the year, and our contribution to the success of the Food Pantry. Volunteers and participants will make this event another swinging success! Please contact Roger Johnson for more information. We are in special need of people to move chairs and tables from church to the Galena Golf Club and back.

Pastor suggested at the last Council meeting that we consider a community meal ministry, in partnership perhaps with the Food Pantry. There will be an informational meeting for all interested members and friends following the Sunday morning service, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, in the Parish Hall. I encourage you to attend. The opening line of our church’s Mission Statement reads “the mission of this congregation is to make disciples for Jesus Christ by going to people within and outside the church...” . Here is an opportunity for you to put these words into action.

Our church family will celebrate a very important day in the life of Thomas Vanderlinde, son of Todd and Tanya Vanderlinde. Thomas will be confirmed on Sunday morning, April 30, by Pastor Baltz. What a momentous occasion in his life and in the life of our church family!

We are also celebrating during this Easter season the First Communion for three young ladies: Lila Anderson, Izabella Farrey, and Grace McIntyre. Proud parents are Wyatt and Jennifer Anderson, Russel and Amy Farrey, and Wayne and Rebecca McIntyre.

**A basket for cards and well wishes for Thomas, Lila, Izabella and Grace is in the Welcome Center. A fellowship luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 30, in the Parish Hall. Sign-up sheets for the luncheon are in the Welcome Center so that we may plan food accordingly. I thank Maureen Knipschild for organizing this event.**

Our bible verse of the day is:

**Romans 6:23**  
**For the wages of sin is death,**  
**but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

You are always welcome to call or email with your thoughts and questions:  
563-424-0129 or [njahyman@gmail.com](mailto:njahyman@gmail.com). It is my blessing and honor to be your Council and Congregational President.

Your sister in Christ,  
Nancy Hyman

## **Announcement of Pastor's Retirement**

Dear Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

In 1978 St. Matthew Lutheran Church issued to me a letter of call which I accepted. I have been the pastor of this church ever since. Much has happened through the years. Through it all the letter of call has remained in effect.

That original letter of call includes a statement that certainly did not seem relevant 39 years ago. But it has become relevant now: the letter of call states that it terminates at the end of the calendar year when I reach my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. Thus reads the letter of call, and this is that year.

So, my call to this congregation will terminate on December 31.

Now, let me encourage you not to be concerned.

First, you will not suddenly find yourselves without pastoral services. In fact, the Council will be working towards the most seamless transition possible.

Second, we have months to go and lots to do in 2017.

Third, a limited, term call may be considered to extend my ministry here beyond the end of the year, until the new pastor can be identified, called and secured. A lot must happen on the way to that new reality.

I am excited about a new pastor for St. Matthew Lutheran Church, whoever he or she turns out to be, because that person will be my pastor, too, and my family's. We have no plans to leave this community or this congregation, and I will continue to help in whatever ways the Pastor, the Council and the Congregation consider appropriate and desirable.

The specifics of all this are for another time. For now I am announcing to you that my retirement is scheduled at the conclusion of this year according to my letter of call. The process now begins with the Council for a congregational self-study and long-term planning, the formation of a call committee, the securing of candidates, the extension of a new call, and the transition of the new pastor to this congregation. That new pastor will lead this church into the future. Thanks and praise to the Lord for what the next chapter in the life of this church will bring.

## **President's Response to Pastor's Announced Retirement**

Dear Members of the Congregation,

During services the weekend of March 18 – 19, Pastor announced his retirement according to the terms of his Letter of Call issued in 1978. I asked Pastor to please include this announcement in the April Newsletter so that all members and friends would be aware.

When I agreed to serve as President of your church, I knew that Pastor's call would expire at the end of this year. He and I discussed this fact and his future plans at our very first meeting in January, 2016. How quickly the time has passed.

According to our Constitution, as President of the congregation my chief duty is to exercise general administrative responsibility for our church. My second responsibility is to develop long range goals and plans and to oversee the process of implementing them. It is then the responsibility of your Council to review and approve these goals and plans.

During the past year and a half, I have given much thought as to how our Pastor, Council and church will navigate the significant period of change and transition ahead. Before anyone can manage or lead this church, it's imperative to know why our church exists, where it is now, where it's going and most importantly... where do we want it to go. I call this the assessment process, or a congregational self-study as Pastor mentioned in his remarks to you.

A guideline for this assessment process has been written, and a Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) has been formed. The guideline and committee were approved by the Council at the March meeting.

Charlie Marsden has agreed to chair this committee. Additional members are Holly Bertucci, Dick Beutel, Connie Consedine, Deb Hyland, Dale Knipschild, and me. Pastor is our spiritual adviser.

The committee will meet at least monthly reporting directly to the Council. The committee will then report directly to you, the members and friends of this church, most likely with updates in the monthly newsletter. Planning, communication and prayer will guide all of us through this process.

Before the end of the year, the SPC will have fulfilled its purpose. The next step will be to form a Call Committee, which will be comprised of six members of the congregation approved by Council.

There is no time frame or deadline for this journey we have embarked upon. Year "one" is underway. Year "two" will likely encompass the call process. Year "three" and beyond will continue to be a period of change and transition for Pastor Baltz and his family, the next pastor and his or her family, and for all members and friends.

Change is a normal part of life.

Change can be wonderful, exciting, creative and energizing.

Change can be difficult, frightening, conflictive and downright scary.

But with careful planning, open communication and constant prayer, St. Matthew will continue to make disciples for Jesus Christ long into the future.

Your sister in Christ,

Nancy Hyman  
Council and Congregational President

## **Report from the Strategic Planning Committee** **April 2017**

Members and Friends of St Matthew, As President Nancy Hyman reported, our Strategic Planning Committee has been formed and we are underway. Thank you to all of the committee members who have volunteered to serve St Matthew Lutheran Church through their time and talents. Thank you to Nancy Hyman and Pastor Baltz for their help and support in putting this program together. Thank you to the Council for its prompt approval.

We have been working the past three months putting together *A Guide for Strategic Planning – St Matthew Lutheran Church of Galena*. The guide describes the process that we will go through to prepare a strategic plan and also speaks to how the Council will implement the plan over the next several years. And, updates to the strategic plan will be made periodically. If you would like to see the guide, just let me know.

Why do we need a strategic plan at St Matthew Lutheran Church? Well, God has a plan for us. It may not always be apparent to us, so we must prayerfully examine:

- Who are we?
- Where does God want us to go?
- What do WE want this church to look like? (I am not talking about color of the carpet!)
- Where do we want to be 1,3,5 years from now?

We need to know these things so that we, as a congregation, are all pulling in the same direction. And, we certainly need to know these things so that we can identify our next pastor who will guide us all on our spiritual journey. And, that pastor will want to know what we are all about when deciding on accepting our call.

Ultimately we will evaluate:

- Discipleship and Ministry
- Leadership
- Financial and Stewardship
- Physical Conditions and Meeting of Needs

I will be reporting on all of this in more detail in future newsletters as well as reports to Council each month. Our goal is to have the strategic plan completed and approved by the Council and Congregation this Fall, in sufficient time to get the Call Committee up and running.

We had our committee's kickoff meeting on March 21. Our focus was on getting to know each other a bit better, discussions on how we are going to work our way through the process of strategic planning over the next several months, a review of the resources that were used to prepare the planning guide, and preparation for our next meeting. Because of Holy Week our next meeting will be on April 10. After that we plan on meeting the third Tuesday of every month. We will be focusing on Church Mission, Vision, and Values at our next meeting.

Speaking of resources, I would encourage you to spend some time on the LCMC website ([www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net)). There you will find many articles of interest, but pay particular attention to *Change Happens! Guidance and Hope in Times of Transition* and *Call Packet for Congregations and Pastoral Candidates*. I think you will find them to be informative and comforting in this time of positive transition.

My promise to you is to communicate with you all along the way. I also promise that my next report will not be as long as this one! So, I will leave you with this familiar statement....

*"We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." LBW*

Let us move forward together to make St Matthew Lutheran Church the best that it can be, serving the Lord and advancing His Kingdom in all ways possible, seven days a week.

I look forward to your thoughts, ideas, questions, and comments. Call me at 815.281.2628 or email me at [ckmarsden@outlook.com](mailto:ckmarsden@outlook.com).

May the Lord Bless Us and Keep Us,

Charles R. Marsden  
SPC Committee Chair



# Special Focus Ministry:

## The next Focus Ministry, April 9,- May 7 Fill The Well

The need for good clean water is great in many parts of the world. Water is something we can easily take for granted, but for many, they must travel long distances just to get fresh water and sometimes they can't even find it. Please consider supporting this important ministry. Consider each time you fill a glass with fresh water from the tap, many people are thirsting around the world. We send our contributions to Lutheran World Relief, so you know that 91% of your generous giving goes to help those in need.

### **IXTAPA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP THANK YOU NOTE**

On behalf of ICF I send you the warmest of greetings!

Those of you at St Matthew Church who give and who pray are a real blessing to us. You have made a difference.

We have been given the privilege to care for the at risk elderly at Bet Shalom, the prisoners in our local prison, the sick at the General Hospital, and the lonely and the lost no matter where they are from. In Spanish or in English "Jesus loves the little children of the world"! These are the ones we are called to serve.

Your gift of love enables us to continue the call in our hearts for as long as God leaves these doors open to us.

Pray for continuing strength for this journey as we all " press forward to our high calling in Christ Jesus".

Sincerely in Christ,

Ron and Rose Cavenagh

Servants with Ixtapa Christian Fellowship

### **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 APRIL

### BIRTHDAYS

**April.** 3 Marie Kempert  
5 Alex Montgomery  
8 Darin Wohlers  
14 April Oldenburg  
15 Rachel Oldenburg  
21 Deb Hyland  
22 Ethan Baltz  
25 Logan Farrey

### ANNIVERSARIES

**April.**14 John & Joanne Carlson  
21 Bill & Elaine Fitch  
26 Todd & Tanya Vanderlinde

### VISIT THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

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

Ruth Schmidt @ The Galena Stauss Assisted Living.

Jeannine Steinle @ The Galena Stauss Nursing Home

### LOST & FOUND

Please check "Our Lost and Found Corner" located in the Fellowship Hall on the coat rack.

## **Dates to Remember !!!!!**

- BS Nursing Home every Tuesday @ 10:00 am
- Each Wednesday Men's Bible Study @ 8:00am at the hospital
- Each Wednesday Brown Bag Bible Study at noon
- April 4 WBS @ 2: 30pm
- April 5 Wednesday @ 1:00pm Executive Committee Meeting
- April 5 Soup Supper starting @ 5:30pm
- April 5 Lenten Services starting @ 7:00pm
- April 6 UCG @9:00am
- April 10 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:00pm
- April 11 Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm
- April 11 & 18 Quilt Tie @ 12:30 pm
- April 11 & 25 "With These Hands" @ 2:00 pm
- April 12 through 14<sup>th</sup> viewing the Shroud and Sudarium From 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- April 13 Maundy Thursday Serv. @ 7:00pm
- April 13 Troop 95 from 7:00-8:30 pm
- April 14 Good Friday Serv. @ 7:00 pm
- April 16 Easter Sunrise service @ 7:00 am., Easter Service with Holy Communion @ 10.00 am.
- April 19 Girl Scout meeting
- April 29 Healing Service after Communion Service
- April 30 Fellowship Lunch, after 10:00 am Service

## **Church Communications Policy**

**In the event there is important news to share with the members of St. Matthew's, an email will be sent to you. We may need to advise you of a member's passing, funeral arrangements, the cancellation of church services or other critical news. Some of our members do not have internet access. Those members will receive a phone call from a special "calling committee". If you have any questions, please contact Fabi Voigt, Volunteer Church Clerk, at [fvoigtchurchclerk@gmail.com](mailto:fvoigtchurchclerk@gmail.com) or call her at 608-509-6973. Thank you.**

**SPECIAL REQUEST:** If you have an article or a note for the newsletter, please submit it to: [fvoigtchurchclerk@gmail.com](mailto:fvoigtchurchclerk@gmail.com) no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Thank you.

## *With These Hands*

Our church is pleased with the number of items that this Ministry has been able to make: shawls, scarves, and lap blankets. We've also have worked on some lovely Snow Bears and Little People for the "With These Hands" Christmas Tree. Last Month we delivered 4 shawls total this year 5 recipients received our shawls. God has blessed us with the gift of our hands. As Easter approach we are making Easter decorative eggs; we will offer them to the children and the young at heart, and we ask you to join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 2:00pm. This activity is not limited to members of the Church; all are welcome to participate. Your **Donations help us get supplies that we need. Donations of yarn, 3/4 inch ribbon and are welcome.**

For information please contact: Fabi Voigt @ 608-509-6973

Or email @ [fvoigtchurchclerk@gmail.com](mailto:fvoigtchurchclerk@gmail.com)

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.

### **Breaking News from ILT**

The Institute of Lutheran Theology has been given formal candidacy status for accreditation. The pace at which the seminary has achieved this is practically unprecedented. The accrediters require institutions to have financial reserves. In ILT's case the amount is \$300,000, and ILT has until May to attempt to raise these funds. This is the last hurdle in the accreditation process. Please go to [www.ilt.org](http://www.ilt.org) to find out more about the seminary and all it provides. Our church has already been blessed by one ILT graduate (Pastor Fran), and we have another student working toward the same goal (Bernadine Anderson). ILT helps insure that all congregations of LCMC and NALC will have faithful, well-trained pastors in the future. Accreditation is an important step, because it helps students secure government education loans, and it speaks unequivocally of the quality of the institution to all concerned. Perhaps you can help. Please prayerfully consider it. Thank you.

# THOSE WHO SERVE IN APRIL 2017

## USHERS & ACOLYTES

**April.** 1 Jim Moser  
2 Dale & Maureen Knipschild  
8 Bruce Etzel  
9 Nancy Hyman/Ken Voigt  
13 Jim Moser  
14 Ken & Fabi Voigt  
15 Bruce Etzel  
16 Chuck & Carolyn Stork  
22 Jim Moser  
23 Dale & Maureen Knipschild  
29 Bruce Etzel  
30 Chuck & Kathy Pedersen

## LECTORS

**April.** 1 Jan Etzel  
2 Dale Knipschild  
8 Dave Anderson  
9 Nancy Hyman  
15 Bernadine Anderson  
16 Carolyn Stork  
22 Dave Anderson  
23 Dale Knipschild  
29 Dave Anderson  
30 Connie Consedine

## OFFERING COUNTERS

**April.** 2 Roger & Pam Johnson  
9 John & Jane Klinkner  
16 Ken & Fabi Voigt  
23 Ken & Fabi Voigt  
30 Connie Consedine/Ken Voigt

## COMMUNION SERVERS

**April.** 1 Bernadine Anderson  
9 Chuck & Carolyn Stork  
13 Nancy Hyman/Fabi Voigt  
15 Bernadine Anderson  
16 Ken & Fabi Voigt  
29 Fran Rogers  
30 Connie Consedine/Fabi Voigt

## BULLETIN FOLDERS

**April.** 4 Bernadine Anderson  
8 Nancy Hyman  
15 Bernadine Anderson  
22 Bernadine Anderson  
29 Bernadine Anderson

## TIME & TALENTS

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

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.

## 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.



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.

### 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.**