



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter May, 2016

The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517

From the Pastor...

Summer schedule

Please remember that our summer schedule will go into effect after Memorial Day. Through the summer we will continue to hold services each Saturday at 5:30 P.M., and each Sunday at 9:00 A.M. Sunday School does not meet during the summer. Thanks to all our Sunday School teachers for their work with our growing Sunday School this year!

LCMC—Growth and Mission

From time to time I visit the LCMC website for one reason or another. The number of congregations is listed on the website, and this number continues to increase. You may recall that when we joined LCMC in 2011 the number of congregations was in the lower 600's. Now it stands at 861, up 2 from the last time I looked. While the growth is not fast, it is still growth, and for most denominations in this country the news is not happy at all. For the ways God is blessing LCMC we might all be extremely thankful...and hopeful.

One reason for the growth in LCMC is the planting of mission churches. One of these is Christ the Victor in Florence, Arizona. Victory Lutheran Church of Mesa planted this ministry six years ago, and it has grown to the point of making the transition to independence. What was once a lumber yard is now the church facility. A food bank and a clothing distribution center take up some of the space. A growing worshipping congregation meets there weekly for Word and Sacrament. By decision of the Council this congregation is our new mission partner, replacing the mission in Bloomington, Minnesota, we have supported in the past: Reallife Church. We have helped Reallife Church move forward in ministry, and now we hope to help another church do that as well. The Lutheran Church of South Sudan receives much needed help from us also. So, a congregation in the United States and a church body in Africa receive your help each month, and so does Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. You are reaching across the country and around the world to help with the church's mission to make disciples. 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.

Congratulations to Pastor Fran

The Institute of Lutheran Theology has recognized Pastor Fran through a graduation ceremony held during the Augustana District Convention in Marshal, Minnesota, on Friday,

April 22. It is now official that Pastor Fran has completed her Master of Divinity degree. Congratulations, Pastor Fran!

Graduations

It's the time of year for graduations. We are aware of the following and congratulate them on their accomplishments: Rachel McIntyre from Ball State University; Scott Miller from Galena High School; April Oldenburg from Galena High School.

Shroud News

Some breaking news is waiting for you at the shroud.com website. I bring this to your attention, because so many of you have followed with interest the saga of the Shroud of Turin, and now the Sudarium of Oviedo. New evidence from a photograph not released until 2014 may turn out to be the "smoking gun" that explains how the carbon 14 testing in 1988 showed the Shroud to be only 700 years old, and not the 2000 years necessary if the Shroud were genuine. The erroneous readings at the laboratories happened because dye substances, visible on a 2014 photograph of the Oxford sample, cannot be removed by the weak solution of hydrochloric acid used by the laboratories to clean them before testing. It looks to me as though the proof for invalidating the carbon 14 results is now there, beyond question. This leaves all the other evidence intact, and all that other evidence is in favor of the authenticity of the Shroud. I encourage you to see this free video: A Grave Injustice. You will find it at <http://www.shroudenigma.com/>.

Pentecost is coming...

We will celebrate Pentecost Sunday May 15. This is the day to commemorate the gift of the Holy Spirit to Christians everywhere. It is as important as Christmas and Easter, but too few Christians recognize this. Please join us the weekend of May 14/15 to celebrate Pentecost.

Healing service

As we did in April we will hold a healing service following the last Saturday service in the month of May, May 28. Again, this is for all in need of healing. Everyone is welcome to bring their needs to God.

Today's Light

Today's Light students may meet with Pastor Baltz May 29th after church for questions, comments, and mutual inspiration as they move forward in their two-year read-through of the Bible.

St. Mattinee



How long has it been since you saw a black and white episode of the in The Adventures of Superman? On May 21 at 3:00 P.M. we will present the story, originally made for theaters, then divided in two parts for the TV series: Superman and the Mole Men. Immediately after the feature we will view a short comparison of the Superman character and Jesus Christ. You are sure to find it interesting. For all ages. Free admission, popcorn and drinks also free. As the announcer used to say: "Don't miss the next thrill-packed episode in the exciting

Adventures of Superman!"

And if you feel like doing something super yourself, check out: news@lwr.org

Frederick W. Baltz

Dr. Frederick W. Baltz

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Birds, trees and flowers, literally all of God's wonderful creation (and the welcome return of our snowbirds) attest to the fact that Spring has arrived. Following months of dormancy and hibernation, time for contemplation and rejuvenation, we are eager to spread our wings and rejoice in the vivacity and indescribable beauty of a new beginning. In anticipation of a full awakening, much like those days following the resurrection and the shouts of "He is Risen" we are experiencing intensified awe for God's unlimited love as we prepare to celebrate Christ's ascension into Heaven. We are comforted and excited with the knowledge of His promise to all believers that our sins are forgiven and we, too, will have eternal life with Him.

This past week I had the opportunity to attend a conference in Minnesota and network with other LCMC congregations. It is a joy to be with like-minded Lutherans and share ideas, success and failures. Each time we meet I come away with more ideas and confidence that what we do at St. Matthew LCMC is on the right track for successful outreach ministries. And yet, there is much more to be done, both here and abroad. We will be looking at some of these new ideas to find fits for the God given talents and gifts in our family here at St. Matthew's. We are richly blessed.

Nursing home ministry is still going strong and growing. It is such a joy! Please join us whenever you are able.

With these Hands ... to date has created 16 shawls / lap robes, 13 of which have been blessed and are ready to be packaged and delivered. So far, 14 recipients have been identified both from within our congregation and others known to be in need of comfort. We have had several donations of yarn, thank you for these. We try to be as conservative as possible and still produce a product of beauty. With the many talented "artisans" in the group the results have been awesome. We would be pleased if you would join us, even if just to see what we are doing. And, of course all donations are gratefully accepted. If you know someone in need of comfort, please contact any one of the stitchers or the church office. God's Blessings,

Fran Hill

Assistant Pastor

President's Letter

Dear Members of the Congregation,

This month I would like to share with you a very important sentence:

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.

If you're not familiar with this sentence, it's the official Mission Statement of our church as printed in Chapter 2 of our church's constitution.

Recently I asked Pastor to include our Mission Statement at the end of the weekly worship folder. I also asked Fabi to include it in the monthly newsletter she prepares.

Please read our Mission Statement from time to time. It clearly defines the purpose of our congregation, your church family. It would be a good exercise for you, or your family, to consider what you have accomplished this day in pursuit of our goal as members of SMLC.

The next time you see Dick Beutel please congratulate him on his appointment to the Council and election as Treasurer of your congregation!. Most especially... the Pastors, Council, Ken Voigt, our Financial Secretary, and I sincerely thank him for his service.

Coming in June is an event you may have heard of...the Golf Outing! Even if you don't play golf, and my golfing days are long over, there are many ways you can help with this outstanding event. Our mission is to raise funds in support of the United Churches of Galena Food Pantry and for our own church. You may sponsor a hole; you may contribute an item for the auction; you may bid on an item; and you may join us for dinner following the tournament. I hope you will! Information will be forthcoming from the Golf Committee.

This year we are combining some of our promotional efforts for the Birdies for Charity/John Deere Classic fundraiser with the Golf Outing. Please consider participating in Birdies for Charity, too!

Before I close, I would like to mention two of our Special Focus Ministries. The collection for the **Malaria Project** is ending; the collection for **Fill the Well** is beginning. While most of us cannot participate in international mission work, we can be involved as members of SMLC, and we can make a difference.

It's hard for us to imagine, living here in Illinois and Iowa, that malaria affects more than 40 percent of the world's population. It kills almost 1 million people a year, most of them children in Africa.

It's hard for us to imagine, living here in Illinois and Iowa, that millions of people have no easy access to clean, safe water.

I challenge our congregation to raise \$500 in support of the Fill the Well Special Focus Ministry this spring. Pocket change and one dollar bills add up! \$500 will provide an entire community somewhere in this world with a system for clean water for drinking and bathing...something we take for granted here.

I leave you with this verse from Matthew 9:37-38:

Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few: therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Your sister in Christ,
Nancy Hyman

Special Focus Ministry:

Our May Focus Ministry is Fill the Well

Beginning May 9 – June 20 our Special focus Ministry is “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. Our goal this year is to collect \$500.

FOOD DONATIONS

Donations of unopened, undamaged food products within the freshness date are accepted at the Food Pantry only on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays (**May 12th and 26th**)_Please drop them at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 127 High St. 815-777-1134 before the assigned days or @ Illinois Bank & Trust. 971 Gear St. between 2:30pm to 4:30pm on the drop off dates. For Information: Call 815-777-1456

THANK YOU AND WELCOME NOTE

We welcomed Dick Beutel to the Church Council at the April meeting. Dick will serve as Congregational Treasurer.
Thank you Dick for helping our Church!!

VISIT THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Jeannine Steinle @ The Galena Stauss Nursing Home

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 @ her home 985 James #2, Galena (815) 777-2378

Pete (Marion) Schmidt @ The Galena Stauss Nursing Home

Ruth Schmidt @ The Galena Stauss Assisted Living.

Please take a time to visit our Church Friends in the above residences.

CELEBRATION CORNER FOR APRIL

BIRTHDAY'S

May 2 Ken Voigt
8 Grace Edmonds
16 John Klinkner
18 Howard Klauer
20 Marion Muckow
25 Carolyn Stork
26 Laurelyn Vanderlinde
30 Elaine Fitch
31 Dick Beutel

ANNIVERSARY'

May 9 Jim & Marie Moser
17 Fred & Cindia Baltz
21 Dan & Connie Consedine
24 Howard & Nancy Klauer

Congratulations.....

To Pastor Fran, She completed her Master of Divinity Degree.

Rachel McIntyre, graduation from University
Scott Miller, graduation from High School
April Oldenburg, from High School

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.

Dates to Remember !!!!!

- Each Tuesday- Bible Study at The Nursing Home @ 10:00 am.
- Each Wednesday Brown Bag Bible Study at noon.
- Each Wednesday Men's Bible study at 8:00 am.
- Each Thursday Choir Practice at 7:00pm
- Each Sunday Adult Bible Study "The Book of Psalms" at 9:00 am
- May 3 – Women's Bible study at 12:30 pm.
- May 4 - Executive Committee Meeting at 1:15 pm
- May 10 and 24 – "With These Hands" meets at 2:00pm.
- May 15 Pentecost Day
- May 21 The Adventures of Superman at 3:00pm.
- May 28 - "Healing Service" following the Saturday evening Worship.
- May 29 -Today's Light Bible Students meet after worship.
- June 9 – "Eleventh Annual Golf Outing"
- Later this Summer- Birdies for Charity.
- After Memorial Day on June 5th Worship will be at 9:00am on Sunday's

With These Hands, Our
new door of opportunity for any
crocheting items as statements
Join us the 2nd and the 4th



Church is so happy with this new Ministry, a
who wish to bless others by knitting or
of God's love,

Tuesday of each month @ 2:00pm.

Meets at Bernadine's Stillman Inn (513 Bouthillier St.)

This activity is not limited to members of the Church; all are welcome to participate.

Donations of yarn and 1 inch ribbon are welcome.

Total Finished Items 14

For all women of the community, Mugs and Muffins provides an
interesting monthly program followed by time for faithful



conversation. You can build new friendships while cherishing old ones. Mugs of coffee or tea,
and muffins will be provided. This new community outreach will be led by Assistant Pastor
Fran Hill on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 A. M.

THOSE WHO SERVE IN MAY 2016

USHERS & ACOLYTES

April 30 Bruce Etzel
May 1 Tom Hill/ Ken Voigt
7 Jim Moser
8 John & Jane Klinkner
14 Bruce Etzel
15 Ken & Fabi Voigt
21 Jim Moser
22 Bill & Bev Reda
28 Bruce Etzel
29 Carolyn & Chuck Stork

LECTORS

April 30 Jan Etzel
May 1 Connie Consedine
7 Bill Fitch
8 John Klinkner
14 Jan Etzel
15 Nancy Hyman
21 Colleen Stephens
22 Kathy Pedersen
28 Marilyn Boehm
29 Carolyn Stork

OFFERING COUNTERS

May 1 Connie Consedine/Colleen Stephens
8 John & Jane Klinkner
15 Nancy Hyman/Joanne Carlson
22 Roger & Pam Johnson
29 Ken & Fabi Voigt

COMMUNION SERVERS

May 14 Jim Moser
15 Nancy Hyman/Fran Hill
28 Fran Rogers
29 Connie Consedine/Fabi Voigt

BULLETIN FOLDERS

April 30 Tom Hill
May 7 Bernadine Andersen
14 Bruce Etzel
21 Roger Johnson
28 Bruce Etzel

TIME & TALENTS

Serve the Lord by using the “Talents and Time 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.

USHERS: Please remain in the back of the church during the service to greet worshipers and provide assistance in case of an emergency .

READERS: An extra copy of each lesson will be located in the lector stand.

Used Ink Cartridges

The Church will gladly accept any size, color, or make of used ink cartridges that you have. Used ink cartridges will be provided to Staples, who in turn will give a \$2 credit to the Church for each one, thereby helping to keep the cost of our office supplies at a minimum. Used ink cartridges may be left in the Office or in the Welcome Center.

Church Financial Health, thru April 27, 2016

	<u>Apr 2016</u>	<u>Apr 2015</u>
Total Income	\$10,203	\$12,450
Total Expenses	\$14,343	\$13,319
Deficit-	\$4,140	\$869



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



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

*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 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.