



# St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter *May 2018*

From the Pastor...

May brings us the celebration of Pentecost. May 20 is Pentecost this year, with Trinity Sunday the following week.

Most people even outside the church know what Christmas is, and Easter also. But Pentecost goes unknown and unappreciated by a large part of the populace. Without the Holy Spirit who creates faith in us we would neither know about Christmas and Easter, nor care. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus real to us. The Holy Spirit leads the church in its mission into the world. The Holy Spirit came into the lives of God's people on the first Pentecost, fifty days following the first Easter. You may be sure we will celebrate as we should.

With Pentecost age-old barriers were broken down. Miracles of God's grace took place frequently among believers. Their way of living became an invitation to faith for others. The saving message of Christ's death and resurrection went out to the ends of the earth. We dare not forget Pentecost and all that it means for us still today!

The Strategic Planning Committee last fall reminded us that we are the only LCMC church in the Tristate area. Of course, I knew that. We all know that. But do you realize how many people make the effort to drive to Galena from Dubuque, from Wisconsin, and from areas in Illinois that are miles from our community? St. Matthew Lutheran Church has taken more than one stand for faithfulness in recent years. We are unique in that respect, and faithful people are drawn to us—even from a distance. LCMC began in March of 2001 with 25 congregations. Today the number is 940. I hope more people in the Tristates will become aware of us and visit us. Can you help make that happen?

Despite what has happened to mainline churches in the United States in the last 55 years, a drastic reduction in numbers and a revision of message, decline is not inevitable if churches are faithful. We must never be smug or proud. God has blessed us; we haven't created our own success. Back to Pentecost again, when we follow the Spirit and the Word of God we will be blessed. God will choose the ways to bless us. For St. Matthew Lutheran Church, that includes a healthy congregation that has gone up in numbers since the beginning of 2018 and may do so again before the end of this year.

Pray for our church, for its work, for its faithfulness, for its future as it calls its next pastor, and that we may reach still others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Frederick W. Baltz, Pastor

### Call Committee Meetings

Members: Tanya Vanderlinde, Wayne McIntrye, Bill Fitch, Deb Hyland, Connie Consedine, and Jan Etzel were all present at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Among the topics discussed were pastor transition. Other items covered were attributes that should be considered when looking at potential candidates. We also looked again at our Mission/Vision Statement.

All committee members were present for the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. We discussed community and church profiles. The information that has been gathered for the Call Packet was reviewed. We ask the congregation to please keep the Call Committee and our efforts in their prayers. Also, pray that the right candidate to fill the position of Pastor at St. Matthews maybe known to us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Fitch



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### 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.**

**EVENTS THIS MONTH**

**Every**

Tuesday	10:00 am - Bible Study at The Nursing Home
	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

**Specific Dates**

May 3	7:00 pm - Choir
May 9	6:00 pm - Church Council Meeting
May 10	7:00 pm - Choir

**CELEBRATIONS IN MAY**

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>			<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>		
May	2	Ken Voigt	May	9	Jim & Marie Moser
	16	John Klinkner		17	Fred & Cindy Baltz
	18	Howard Klauer		21	Dan & Connie Consedine
	20	Marion Muchow		24	Howard & Nancy Klauer
	25	Carolyn Stork			
	26	Laurelyn Vanderlinde			
	27	Elaine Fitch			

# Special Focus Missions:

## Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministry Inc. (LMVFM) May 2018

Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministry Inc. is one of the few organizations providing free care, counseling and other programs to the military and their families.

They assist family members, congregation and care givers in the unique challenges resulting from military service. They offer training and workshops for churches and groups designed to educate caregivers in unique and challenging aspects of providing Christian care and outreach to veterans and their families.

They offer various groups and retreats for veterans and their family members. They also provide Individual and Couples counseling.

For more information visit their website [www.lmvfm.org](http://www.lmvfm.org)



## "With Our Hearts and Hands"



### A Ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Galena, IL

"With Our Hearts and Hands" is an outreach ministry of our Church. We meet twice per month to knit, crochet and make other craft items for the Nursing home residents, Assisted Living, Church members and children.

For now, in addition of crocheting and knitting we are focusing on sewing shawls and quilt lap blankets.

Our goal for this year is to provide a "**Blessed Garment**" to every resident of the nursing home; On Easter Sunday we provided 49 crochet crosses to each family of our congregation and to the visitors.

Some people have asked me how long it takes to complete a "**Blessed Garment**". For a lap blanket there are 33,755 stitches and it takes 14 ½ to 15 ½ hours for each garment.

In the past we called these items "**Prayer Shawls**" but we changed the name to "**Blessed Garments**"; when we are ready to give to the person we bless the item.

We need and appreciate your help with yarn, small pieces of material for quilts, large pieces of material for shawls or financial donations.

Please join us every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month to work on the items mentioned above. We meet at:

Fabi Voigt's Residence  
20 Shenandoah Dr., Galena, IL 61036  
if you have any questions please call Fabi at 608-509-6973 or email at  
[Fvoigtwithourheartsandhands@gmail.com](mailto:Fvoigtwithourheartsandhands@gmail.com)

### "With Our Hearts and Hands" Committee

Joanne, Maureen, Bernice (Maureen's Mom) and Fabi



**April Financial Information**

April Income	\$16,624.87	YTD \$48,719.57
April Expense	\$10,395.68	YTD \$40,507.78

Please submit articles, pictures or information for the newsletter to [contact.stmatt@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.