



# St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter *July 2018*

From the Pastor...

We have just returned from vacation in Alaska and Canada. What a wonderful trip!

With the Fourth of July just ahead, let me share with you another event from July 4, 1776. On that day the same Continental Congress that declared independence from the King of England formed a committee. Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams were charged with developing a great seal for the new United States of America.

Both Jefferson and Franklin, independently of one another, suggested that the imagery on the seal should include the biblical Exodus. Here is another case of religious beliefs from the Judeo-Christian tradition influencing the thoughts of the founders. Franklin suggested that the seal should depict Moses on the shore of the sea, with Pharaoh and his soldiers caught in it, and the pillar of cloud and fire as a sign of God's involvement and approval. He also suggested words to go around the seal: Rebellion to Tyrants is Obedience to God.

Remember this when you hear that the founders of our country weren't really Christians, but deists, and when you hear that "separation of church and state" means anything important to believers must be censored from public display. Christians are to be involved in government for the better of all, and that cannot mean abandoning our beliefs first.



Pastor Frederick W. Baltz

**President's Letter to the Congregation**  
**July 2018**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Much has been accomplished this past month around the St. Matthew property. The tuck pointing has been finished. The additional handrail coming up the sidewalk from the back parking lot has been installed. Roger, Jeff, John and the rest of the crew cleaned up the hedges and planted and mulched the flower beds out front. Thank you to everyone involved with these projects. They look amazing!

An additional shout-out to Kris and Chuck Korte for the beautiful flowers that grace our altar every summer. The variety and beauty of these flowers is something to behold. Thank you so much for sharing your garden with us!

More tech updates are in the works, thanks to Roger. Charlie is updating the insurance for our house of worship. Thank you, Deb, for conducting the Bible study at the retirement home. There have been many prayers and much support for our Christian brothers and sisters in South Sudan in their time of need.

Thank you all for your generosity.

We have reached the goal set for Birdies for Charity. Thank you all very much!

I am reading "I Don't Have Enough FAITH to Be an ATHEIST" by Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek. It's a very good read and I recommend it to you.

Stay strong in the faith, knowing Jesus's love even when we fall short.

God's blessings,  
Bruce Etzel  
President

**Call Committee Meetings**

Committee members present were Tanya Vanderlinde, Wayne McIntyre, Bill Fitch, and Connie Consedine at the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jan Etzel and Deb Hyland were out of town. We met with the Church Council to address their questions previously submitted to us and to update them on our Committee's progress. The Committee members were all present at the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Some of the thoughts from the Church Council meeting that we discussed were how to conduct an interview and the type of questions we can ask. Our Committee has posted our job opening and hope soon to be doing some initial interviewing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Fitch

## CELEBRATIONS IN JULY

### BIRTHDAYS

July	2	Roger Johnson
	3	Bernice Edwards
	4	Colin Etzel Lydia Vanderlinde
	7	Ruth Schmidt
	9	Karen Montgomery
	10	Joanne Carlson
	17	Ted Forsberg
	18	Tanya Vanderlinde
	21	Dick Jones
	23	Dale Wohlers
	24	Fabi Voigt Thane Montgomery
	31	Marilyn Muehleip

### ANNIVERSARIES

July	12	Charles & Kathy Pedersen
	25	John & Jane Klinkner

## EVENTS THIS MONTH

### Every

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

### Specific Dates

July 7	5:30 pm - Communion
July 8	9:00 am - Communion
July 28	5:30 pm - Communion
July 29	9:00 am - Communion

## Special Focus Missions:

### **World Food Crisis July 2018**

The World Food Crisis is a serious drought in East Africa has led to a major drop in crop production, leaving millions of poor rural families that rely on farming as their primary means of survival without adequate food or income. Your gift will reach communities in Kenya, where neighbors are working together to improve and build better systems to capture rain water for irrigation. They earn much-needed cash for their effort, which they can use to purchase food in the short-term, and increase their ability to respond to drought in the long-term. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is also responding to the devastating humanitarian emergency in South Sudan, where the United Nations has declared a famine in the northern area of the country. The famine is the first to be declared in the world since 2011.



**June Financial Information**

June Income	\$ 19,800.60	YTD \$ 79,558.93
June Expense	\$ 12,284.29	YTD \$ 66,249.08

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.

**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.