



# St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter July 2020

## ***The Lutherans: Posting Vital Information Since 1517***

### [Letter from the Pastor](#)

Greetings and peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord

Greetings from Duluth Minnesota! As I write this letter to you I am looking out onto the beautiful whitecapped waters of Lake Superior. There has always been something about the great lakes that calls to me, their vastness and unforgiving power has garnered my respect for as long as I can remember. As I watch the lake freighters, or “lakers” as they are known up here on the north shore, one of my favorite hymns comes to mind; Eternal Father Strong to Save. It is this beautiful melody that finishes nearly all verses with this line, “O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.” This maritime hymn cries to God asking for his hand to come down upon those in danger be it at sea or wherever they may find themselves. I think this message is fitting for that which we are going through now.

Over the past few months our boats have been rocked. The church has closed its doors physically, our ways of life have been altered in profound ways. Over the course of so little time, our lives have been tossed into chaos on whitecapped waters and in turn we too have cried out to God and God has heard our calls. Thanks be to God we are getting back to some semblance of normalcy. In person church services have started and though the feeling is not the same as it was before, it is good to have a congregation to preach to once more. I have started to teach confirmation yet again, but instead of in person meetings we are finishing up our Lutheran year online.

Slowly but surely our ship is sailing into calmer waters and with almighty God guiding and one another to lean on and support we shall make it through this rough patch in our life together. As we continue to learn how to be church in this new normal, I ask that you keep myself and the whole leadership team in your prayers and do know that you are all in mine. I look forward to returning to you all and sharing many great stories and pictures.

In Christ

- Pastor Blake W. Shipman



## 8 Eternal Father, Strong to Save

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the  
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -  
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who did brood up - on the cha - os  
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, all trav - elers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its  
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and  
 wild and rude, and bade its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
 dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we  
 calm a - mid its rage did sleep: O hear us when we  
 gave, for fierce con - fu - sion, peace: O hear us when we  
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

The year after this text was written for a student sailing to America, it was included in the most influential British hymnal of the 19th century. The tune especially composed for it preserves the ancient Roman name of the island where Paul was shipwrecked, now called Malta.

## **President's letter - July, 2020**

Dear Friends,

It appears we will finally be able to worship together beginning Sunday, July 5 at 9:00 a.m.

We will be having only one service per week at this time, and there are guidelines we will be following for our gatherings, but we will do our best to accommodate our parishioners.

Face masks will be required as will social distancing in the pews. Temperatures will be taken at the door and no one with a temperature over 100.4 will be allowed to enter. We will be using a digital thermometer which will not require actual touching of the skin. The temperature can be taken two inches from your forehead. The hymnals, Bibles, and pew cushions have been removed to allow us to sanitize the sanctuary in between services. The service and hymns will be projected onto the front screen. All of this information is subject to change as we work to make this the least invasive means of coming to worship that we can manage.

In addition, I want to once again thank Pastors Baltz and Shipman, Deb Hyland, Todd and Tonya Vanderlinde and

Roger Johnson for the recording and transmission of all of our church services over the past four months. A special thank you to Tanya who is stepping back from playing for our services at this time. She stepped in last October when Jan had her surgeries and has been playing steadily for us for the past 8 months. I am happy to say that Pam McKensie has begun playing for our recording sessions and has agreed to continue playing for us once our services begin. Also, John Klinkner has offered his services to record our services for transmission. Thank you Tanya, Pam and John!

Speaking of our recorded services, we will continue to send out our services even once we resume our Sunday worship. If you are not feeling well, or feel uncomfortable gathering with a group of people, you will be able to continue worshipping with the online service.

Please keep the following members in your prayers as they have suffered the loss of family members. Our sympathies are extended to Andrea, Tim, and Alexandria Grass on the passing of Andrea's mother, Dani Mraz, on June 11.

Our sympathies to Pastor Shipman who lost his grandfather on Friday, June 26. May you all find peace in knowing that those who know the Lord are with Him and we will see them again.

Milestone anniversary congratulations are extended to Jim and Mary Wachter as they celebrated 60 years of

marriage on June 25 and Jerry and Sharon Wachter as they celebrated 50 years of marriage on June 20. Congratulations and Happy Anniversary!

At the writing of this newsletter, the Birdies for Charity fundraiser is in full swing and, despite there not being a tournament playing this year, our Birdie pledges are coming in strong. Thank you all for your commitment to this fundraiser.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. I hope to see you all very soon in church!

In His service, Bruce Etzel



# CELEBRATIONS IN JULY

## BIRTHDAYS

02	Roger Johnson
03	Bernice Edwards
04	Colin Etzel
04	Lydia Vanderlinde
07	Ruth Schmidt
09	Karen Montgomery
10	Joanne Carlson
18	Tanya Vanderlinde
21	Dick Jones
23	Dale Wohlers
24	Fabi Voight
24	Thane Montgomery
31	Marilyn Muehleip

## ANNIVERSARIES

12	Charles & Kathy Pedersen
25	John & Jane Klinkner





## JUNE FINANCIAL NEWS

INCOME            7,957

EXPENSE           12,481

DIFFERENCE       4,524

## **NEW WORSHIP PROCEDURES**

We are thankfully ready to open our sanctuary for regular worship services starting July 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Because Covid 19 is still a factor in all our lives, we will need to follow a number of guide lines to maintain a healthy environment for all of our members and staff.

Upon arriving at the church, each person will have their temperature taken. A digital thermometer which will not require actual touching of the body (just positioning it 2 inches from the forehead) will be used. Temperatures over 100.4 degrees will require that person to remain outside the church.

Every member will be required to wear a face mask throughout the service. Because 6 feet of distance must also be maintained, other than couples sitting next to each other, seating will be arranged to accommodate this factor. Hand sanitizers will be provided in each pew.

Hymnals have been removed from the pews but all hymns will be projected on our screen at the front of the church.

We will modify these procedures as we work through this process.



# 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY WORD SEARCH

T M N W Q J E T A R B E L E C D Y  
I M T Q H H Y M Q R Q U D U E I A  
O Q T A W Q M Z Y E X U C C N T D  
I N D E P E N D E N C E L C J A I  
A S I O U O R H A M U A A T U Q L  
N K S A M E R I C A R P P S O S O  
U R P U F U B E E A Y S T R U B H  
P O A Y D L D W T O E C I N C I P  
K W R W E A A I L P O E A U E O N  
F E K H T F O G I A D E U S D I H  
Y R L I I N T R B E M D T N A T L  
L I E T N P T Z E U R A E T R S C  
U F R E U S L Q R R R U I U A A E  
J V S O D L K V T S L R O K P J B  
W I T O E O M O Y B B F I U P J L  
I A S V Y E M R E D R E M M U S E

America

Blue

Britain

Celebrate

Declaration

Fireworks

Flag

Fourth

Freedom

Holiday

Independence

July

Liberly

Parade

Picnic

Red

Sparklers

Stars

Stripes

Summer

United

White



St. Matthew Lutheran Church 127 South  
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Service Times: Saturday at 5:30 pm  
Sunday at 10:00 am

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 and follow us on  
Facebook!

