



# St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter *September 2018*

From the Pastor...

As I write this to you, I recall our very first newsletters more than 35 years ago. The church had never sent newsletters before. We researched the postal requirements and set about bringing all members and friends a monthly message concerning the many activities of this congregation. It was much harder in those days. We had to cut a stencil with a typewriter for each of the pages, then ink the mimeograph, and crank out more than 200 copies, because 200 was the minimum number for the bulk mailing permit. We could send out extra copies in order to reach the 200, and still pay less than if we only sent to the members by first class mail. Those were pre-computer days, no cell phones, nothing electronic. In time to come we had TV monitors connected to VHS players for Christian education, and photocopiers! We have come from the age of filmstrips and 16 mm movies to where we are now. Much has changed, but the most important things have remained the same.

This will be my last newsletter message to you as your called Pastor. There has been lots of news over the course of the years, news that we have made together. Thanks to all of you for your prayers, your assistance, your interest, your attendance, your encouragement.

So, here is a recap of just some of that news that we have made together through the years: Weekly, without interruption, we have met together to worship and to hear the Word of God! Holy Communion has been offered to all repentant believers. We have done all this through the seasons of the church year for more than a generation. Once, big families characterized Galena more than today. Back then entire pews were filled by individual families. But whether then or now, we have known a sense of excitement and joy in our worship. We have been blessed with our long-standing choir and our wonderful music director, Janet Etzel; our Sunday School; Vacation Bible Schools led by our church alone which served over one hundred children at a time; youth events and Lutheran Youth Encounter teams; our revival of the Preaching Teaching Reaching Missions from the '50's and '60's; confirmations and baptisms; pancake suppers and midweek services; classes and Bible studies; new faces among us—often from beyond Galena.

We have stood before a copy of the Shroud of Turin which we have shared with everyone, and sat indoors under a unique sky as it appeared when Jesus was born. Advents with their wreaths and readings; Christmases with their candles; Palm Sundays and Easters; and Pentecosts with their message about the Holy Spirit among us. We celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, and multiple anniversaries of this congregation. We became spiritual allies of brothers and sisters in South Sudan, and helped

establish a new seminary which is thriving today. Quilts, school kits, health kits by the hundreds... Special focus ministries have been before us for many years.

I think of church directories, and also the faces of many who have gone on to be with the Lord whose presence among us was known from week to week. I can still tell you where many of them would typically sit on a given Sunday. They all had their important part to play.

Among the many steps forward we have taken together: the opening of our church to a Christian preschool; the 2006 addition; the remodeled front yard, bathroom, and handicap access; our AV system, used every week for our joyful singing, which also makes our services available around the world via internet; new worship orders of service; the chancel remodeling; the dining room and kitchen remodeling; a yearly stewardship emphasis; the parking lot which was once lawn; steeple work; carpeting and redecorating; lightning protection; a new concert-quality organ and a grand piano to match.

Some of the time we have spent together has brought serious challenges to St. Matthew Lutheran Church. You stood by your pastor as he led where he believed God directed us to go. Today this church is in a position of strength. I believe we have been blessed for doing what was right. There is much about this congregation that the new pastor will immediately be able to affirm, appreciate, and be thankful for.

I know it is the prayer of all of us that St. Matthew Lutheran Church will continue to thrive and grow in the years to come. It will be vitally important for all of you to continue with the same kind of support for the new pastor that you have given me. The new pastor will be united with you on the essentials of our faith, but will have some different ideas, different ways of doing things, maybe a different way of preaching and teaching. That is to be expected. Please be open to what the new pastor wishes to do. When you call him/her, you owe the pastor that.

Many have asked if I will continue to hold the Wednesday Bible studies, or be involved in other ways as before. I must tell you that I intend to be away while the transitional pastor and the new pastor respectively become established in the church. They deserve that, and so do you. I will visit other churches, perhaps preach for someone on vacation here and there, continue to write books and develop videos, etc. Cindy and I do look forward to making our way back eventually to this church when the time is right. The new pastor will be our pastor, too.

Exciting times are directly ahead for St. Matthew Lutheran Church! Pastor Klindworth was here for 49 years. I am happy with the silver medal for longevity. But that is all in the past. Years from now when people drive around Horseshoe Mound and see our steeple lit so brilliantly at night, may this congregation be as vibrant as ever, and as faithful as ever--a church in the authentic Lutheran tradition, bringing Word and Sacrament to the world.

Pastor Frederick W. Baltz

### **Call Committee Meetings**

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, members present Deb Hyland, Wayne McIntyre, Jan Etzel, and Bill Fitch. Absent: Connie Consedine and Tanya Vanderlinde. We conducted our 2<sup>nd</sup> interview. Following the interview we spent time comparing our notes about the questions we asked. The committee will be moving ahead with additional interviews.

August 28<sup>th</sup>, committee members present Deb Hyland, Connie Consedine, Jan Etzel, Wayne McIntyre, Tanya Vanderlinde and Bill Fitch were all present. The committee members conducted our 3<sup>rd</sup> pastoral candidate interview. Depending on the circumstances we have different methods of conducting an interview available to us besides a “personal” interview or we may use Skype, etc. After the interview we followed up with an after action review. We will be looking at additional interviews in September. Any finalists will receive a second, in-person interview.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Fitch

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Attention all choir members:

Choir will resume on Thursday, Sept. 6 at 7:00. We will be working on songs for Pastor Baltz's retirement celebration. Come and join the fun!

A Special Meeting of the Congregation of St. Matthew Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, September 16, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. in the church sanctuary. The purpose of this Special Meeting is to call a Transitional Pastor.

**Pastor Baltz will be conducting his final service as our pastor on Sunday, September 30.**

We will be celebrating with a reception following the 10:00 service. Due to the number of people we are expecting to attend, Crossroads Community Church has graciously offered us the use of their building for our luncheon celebration. Crossroads is located at 900 Galena Square Drive behind Stoney Creek Inn. Please plan to arrive after 12:45 with lunch being served at 1:00.

We are catering the main course of chicken, cheesy potatoes, and lasagna and are asking that our members pot luck the remainder of the meal. Bring your favorite salad, vegetable, side dish or desert. We will be supplying the plates, silverware, cups and beverages.

Please sign your name on the sheet in the welcome center **by September 16** if you plan to attend so we will know how much food to order. If you are in need of a ride, please talk to Bruce or Jan Etzel (815) 541-4888 and we will see to it that you get there and back home again.

We hope everyone will be able to attend this wonderful event!

**Attention able bodied members:**

In conjunction with Pastor Baltz's celebration, we are in need of about 10 people who would be willing to set up tables and chairs on Saturday, Sept. 29 at Crossroads Church. We then will need another crew on Sunday to take down the tables and chairs following the celebration. There will be a sign-up sheet in the welcome center at church if you can help with this event. Thank you!



## CELEBRATIONS IN SEPTEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

September	3	Norm Muehleip	September	17	Bret Johnson
	4	Rhonda Harstad		19	Clara Rose Anderson
	10	Todd Vanderlinde		20	Bernadine Anderson
	11	James Wachter		27	Kathleen Pedersen
	13	Pam Johnson		29	Robert Johnson
	16	Rebecca McIntyre			

### ANNIVERSARIES

September	15	Tim & Andrea Grass	29	Gordon & Karen Montgomery
	16	Chuck & Carolyn Stork		

## 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

September 6	7:00 pm - Choir Resumes
September 8	5:30 pm - Communion
September 9	10:00 am - Communion
September 16	11:00 am - Special Meeting of the Congregation
September 29	5:30 pm - Communion
September 30	10:00 am - Communion
September 30	1:00 pm - Pastor Baltz's Retirement Celebration



### August Financial Information

August Income	\$ 5,436.16	YTD \$ 95,148.87
August Expense	\$ 8,289.64	YTD \$ 83,999.25

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  
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[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.