

A Message from our Senior Pastor ... Pastor Timothy Kinne

Thus says the Lord, “Let My people go, that they may serve Me.” Exodus 8:1

The theme for ministry this year (2018-2019) at St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School is **Shar-ing in the Mission of Christ: Learning, Con-necting & Serving**—with the emphasis on **Serving**. This theme is based on the words of Je-sus from the Gospel of St. Mark 10:45 “**For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to Serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**”

Beginning with Ash Wednesday and throughout the Lenten Season we concentrated on the Book of Exodus under the Theme: “**Let My People Go!**” Yet, one small phrase needs to be included now as we approach the other side of Easter. “**Let My People Go that they may serve Me.**”

The verb serve appears ninety-seven times in Exodus and, while it can denote slave labor when applied to Israel, after the Exodus it means **service** to Yahweh (the Lord). The book of Exo-dus, then, describes Israel’s movement from **serv-ing** one master to another. One kills and destroys. The other liberates and loves.

Israel is saved **from** Egypt and saved **for** a life with Yahweh. There are two types of freedom; the false freedom, where we are free to do what we like and the other is the true freedom, where we are free to do what we ought. It is a mark of maturity when we learn that freedom involves ac-cepting responsibility. It took one night to get Is-rael out of Egypt. It takes the rest of the Old Tes-tament to get Egypt out of Israel.

It took the Lord His life here on earth to rescue all mankind **from** our sinful lives on earth. It takes each of us the rest of our life here on earth, to get the earth out of us so that we might live **forever** with Him in heaven.

When we apply to ourselves the words the Lord gave to Moses “**Let My People Go that they may serve Me**” what do we discover? Is there something holding us back from **serv-ing** the Lord as we could? If so, what might that be—our schedules, our priorities, ourselves?

The question each of us needs to consider is—in what ways am I **serv-ing** my Lord and Savior? He has set me free from my sins, **from** death, and from the power of the devil and He has saved me **for** eternal life in heaven. So what does that mean to me now?

In what ways might you be able to **serve**—and in what ways might you **serve** better—than you have in the past. As a congregation we are al-ways in need of willing workers and each mem-ber should find an activity in which they can **serve** and then actively **serve**.

Recently Pastor Blonski and I authored a letter of encouragement to the congregation. En-closed with that letter was a copy of the **2019 Time & Talent Profile & Commitment**. You are encouraged to take a moment and fill out the Profile and Commitment portion as how you would be willing to be involved in **serv-ing** your Lord here at St. Matthew.

Listed are a few activities coming up...

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Forty days after Easter the Church celebrates the Ascension of our Lord into heaven. This year the special service will be held on

Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

There will be special music for the celebration and the guest preacher for that evening will be the Rev. Channing Kearney, who has assisted the Pastoral Staff at St. Matthew and served as a Military Chaplain. Come and join us!

GIDEONS PRESENTATION

On the weekend of **June 1 & 2, 2019** Mr. Andy Kaufman will be making a presentation for the Gideons International. The Gideons International is the result of a meeting between two men who wished to band commercial travelers together for evangelism. What began in 1908 as an Association of Christian businessmen placing Bibles in hotel rooms has evolved into an expanding mission to provide Scriptures to all people in nearly every facet of life. A free-will offering will be received to assist the Gideons International in the ministry of bringing the lost to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

MEETING OF THE VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

Sunday, June 9, 2019 in Luther Hall following the 10:45 a.m. Service.

At this meeting, the members of the Congregation with voting privileges will make the decisions to:

- A. Consider and adopt the budget proposed for 2019-2020, and
- B. Receive reports from the various Entities, Boards and Committees of the Congregation.

TIM ZIMMERMAN AND THE KINGS BRASS will be at St. Matthew on Thursday, June 27 at 7:00 p.m. Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass provide innovative worship for

young and old alike through the "best in sacred brass music." By teaming together, these Christian professionals from around the United States perform their original arrangements as heard on their fifteen recordings. For forty years, The King's Brass have performed over one hundred concerts each season with three trumpets, three trombones, a tuba, keyboards, and percussion. Playing a wide variety of music from Gabrieli to hymn classics, from Handel to jazz spirituals, to patriotic marches, The King's Brass uses all corners of the Sanctuary to lift hearts and spirits in praise. In addition, there will be a special pre-concert recital at 6:45 p.m. by our own Michael Gagne to showcase the Sanctuary's new organ.

Don't miss this incredible family experience!

THE THIRD ANNUAL GOLF OUTING Sunday, July 28, 2019

A great way to financially support the ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School.

Save Sunday, July 28, 2019 at Renwood Golf Course, more information may be received by contacting Christy Shepard at 847-438-6103 or Shepard@StMattsOnline.com

THE ANNUAL CORN & PIG ROAST Sunday, August 11, 2019

This annual event is a great deal of fun for members of St. Matthew and for the Community. Many hands are needed on Friday, August 9, Pre-Set Up Saturday, August 10, Set Up and Sunday during the Pig Roast. The Sign-up sheets will be available soon. I am asking that everyone please sign up and be involved in some aspect of this worthwhile endeavor.

May the Lord continue to bless us as we are

Sharing in the Mission of Christ:

Learning, Connecting & Serving

Rev. Timothy L. Kinne, Sr. Pastor