

The St. Matthew Lutheran Church Voice



In Memory of Comfort Dog Ladel



2008 - 2019

*“And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”
Romans 5:5 (Bible Passage for Ladel)*

We thank the LORD our God for the gift that He gave to us through Ladel, our Comfort Dog. Although animals are not created in the image of God, they nonetheless praise God as they fulfill the purposes for which God created them. God created Ladel to be a loving and devoted dog who glorified God by offering comfort and being a bridge for the ministry of the Lord to our congregation and community. For this we give our thanks to the LORD God, our Creator.

Volume 65 Issue 1

2020 FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	25	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

**Cool Monthly Item
Breakfast Items**

- 1 - Leadership Summit
- 26 - Ash Wednesday Services Noon & 7pm
Lenten Dinner 5:30pm
- 29 - LZ Expo at Concord Banquet Hall

MARCH 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

**Cool Monthly Item
Tuna**

- 1 - New Adult Discipleship Class begins
- 4, 11, 18, 25 - Lent Mid Week Worship 7pm
(Mid week Lenten Dinners at 5:30pm)

APRIL 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

**Cool Monthly Item
Juice/Powdered Milk**

- 1 - Lent Mid Week Worship 7pm
(Mid week Lenten Dinner at 5:30pm)
- 9 - Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
- 10 - Good Friday Services Noon & 7pm
- 11 - Vigil of Easter 5:30pm
- 12 - Easter Services 6:00, 8:00, 10:45am
Easter Breakfast 7:00-11:00am
- 26 - Youth Confirmation 10:45am

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!
 Baseball Sunday Sunday, May 31
 Vacation Bible School July 20-July 24
 Pig Roast Sunday, August 9



William Baumgartner

Born : May 2, 1922

Entered Eternal Rest: September 21, 2019

Geraldine A. Morton

Born : January 18, 1938

Entered Eternal Rest: November 1, 2019

Margaret Ruth Fenner

Born : February 13, 1926

Entered Eternal Rest: November 22, 2019

Debra Corrado

Born : December 17, 1956

Entered Eternal Rest: November 21, 2019

Rose Chinnow

Mother of Carol Schuett

Alfred Bartusch

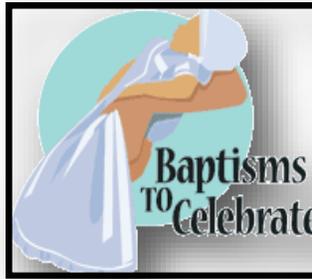
Born : May 29, 1934

Entered Eternal Rest: January 11, 2020

Shirley Mae Leibert

Born : September 6, 1931

Entered Eternal Rest: January 14, 2020



October 26, 2019 - *Brynn Emily Rollins*
Daughter of Kathryn & James Rollins

November 3, 2019 - *Harrison Adam Weir*
Son of Betty & Jeffery Weir

November 3, 2019 - *Austin Paul Schmidt*
Annalise Laurel Schmidt
Konrad Robert Schmidt
Children of Jennifer & Matthew Schmidt

November 10 - *Preston Alexander Stroble*
Son of Melanie & Jeff Stroble

December 15, 2019 - *Edwin Raudel Serrano*
Son of Vaness & Daniel Nickolai

December 15 - *Calvin Christopher Nickolai*
Son of Vaness & Daniel Nickolai

ADULT BAPTISM

December 15 - Brian Michael Motyka

December 21, 2019 - *Bentley Michael Lamberti*
Son Mallory & Bradley Lamberti

December 21, 2019 - *Romeo Valentin Garcia*
Gurrera & Christiano Babriel Garcia Guerrera
Children of Anna & Luis Garcia

MILITARY PRAYER LIST

Please pray for
St. Matthew's own
and all those
currently serving
around the world.

Justin Brown
Scott Karas
Charles Moneyham
Elise Neilson
Steve & Ice Sandy
Adam Imaoka
Tyler Sawusch



ASHLEY BUFFANO & DAREK HORAN
were united in marriage
on November 9, 2019

ANNA CHRISTINE GURRERA & LUIS ALFONSO GARCIA
were united in marriage
on December 21, 2019

ADULT CONFIRMATIONS
on December 15, 2019



Dakota S. Gamble
Brian Michael Motyka
Edwin Raudel Serrano



PLEASE inform the Pastoral staff when a call or visit is desired – the hospitals and rehabilitation centers do not contact us. If you or a loved one is receiving medical treatment, please make contact with the:

Church Office (847) 438-7709
Pastor Kinne (224) 360-2629
Pastor Blonski (909) 373-7936

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

**Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances; for this
is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”
1 Thessalonians. 5:16–18.**



The theme for ministry for the next three years is **THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU** based on 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 and each year we will concentrate on one of the directives:

REJOICE ALWAYS (2019-2020),

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING (2020-2021),

GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES (2021-2022);
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

This year we concentrate on the directive of the Lord through the Apostle Paul to **REJOICE ALWAYS!** Sometimes we need to consider who we would be and where we would be without the love of the LORD our God. For in His great mercy He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to be our Savior—our Savior **FROM** sin, death and hell, and our Savior **TO** the hope of eternal life in heaven. For this we ought to **REJOICE ALWAYS!**

Such **REJOICING** at St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School also includes the many ways in which the Lord has richly blessed us in the past. When we consider the journey that the members of the congregation of St. Matthew have made throughout the years, we ought to **REJOICE** in the countless ways the Lord has blessed us with resources and opportunities to serve in His kingdom right here in our congregation, in our community and throughout the world.

Still, this **REJOICING** ultimately looks forward—into the future—to be able to **REJOICE** now, tomorrow, next week, next year and forever. Knowing that our Lord and Savior has promised us that as we are about His work of making disciples, and as we seek to be teaching those we meet to observe all that He has commanded us, that He will be with us always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19–20. For this we should **REJOICE ALWAYS!**



EVERYONE HIS WITNESS

During this Season of Epiphany (January 19 – February 23) we have and will continue to participate in **EVERYONE HIS WITNESS** an Evangelism Outreach Program of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Witnessing. What's it all about? The Every One His Witness Lutheran evangelism program puts sound doctrine into practical action for sharing the faith with people in our everyday lives.

The focus will help us to learn: What is witnessing? Why do we witness? And the “how-to” of witnessing using the LASSIE approach—Listen-Ask-Seek-Share-Invite-Encourage.

As we seek to be Witnessing—to share the message of salvation in Jesus Christ with those who may not believe in Jesus as their Savior from sin—You and I need to realize that helping people think in new ways is usually a slow process. Be patient, and be ready to explain it again and again, and be prepared to talk about additional questions they might want to raise.

A Message from our Senior Pastor (continued from page 3)

May the Spirit of the Lord bless each of us as we seek to engage the world so that others may come to saving faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and by believing have eternal life.



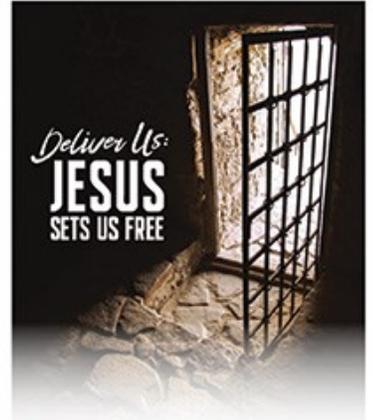
LENT BEGINS with **Ash Wednesday**, this year that is February 26 and so does our emphasis on **Lenten Customs**.

The reason we have Customs, rituals and traditions is to help us to both learn and remember. The more a Custom is used the more familiar it becomes and the more we understand the “whys?” of such practices. Each of us is then given the opportunity to teach others, both young and mature, who may never have been taught what they mean and how they apply.

1. Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020
Lenten Custom: Ashes
Genesis 3:19
2. Wednesday, March 4, 2020
Lenten Custom: Fasting
Matthew 6:16–18
3. Wednesday, March 11, 2020
Lenten Custom: Penitence
Psalm 51:10
4. Wednesday, March 18, 2020
Lenten Custom: Foot Washing
John 13:3–15
5. Wednesday, March 25, 2020
Lenten Custom: The Veil
1 Corinthians 13:12
6. Wednesday, April 1, 2020
Lenten Custom: Palms
Philippians 2:10–11
7. Sunday, April 12, 2020
Easter Customs: Bunnies and Eggs
1 Corinthians 15:19

LENTEN DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Every Lenten season, we reflect on God’s work on our behalf through the telling of Christ’s Passion. In ***Deliver Us: Jesus Sets Us Free***, we remember our Savior’s triumphal act of redemption in Israel’s exodus from captivity in Egypt. Just as Moses led Israel to the Promised Land, Jesus won victory for us through His life, death, and resurrection. In both events, God saves His people. But, through Jesus, God saves completely. Since creation, God has been setting us free. From Adam and Eve’s transgression to Israel’s slavery in Egypt to mankind’s bondage to sin and death, God liberates the captive! ***In Deliver Us: Jesus Sets Us Free***, you’ll see God’s love in action—working His purposes through human affairs, drawing us into a relationship with Him. Even as Moses (a kind of redeemer) foreshadowed the work of Christ (our ultimate Redeemer), we remember with awe and humility the pains God took to win us back to Himself, sparing not His only Son.



NEXT ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASS

You are invited to the next **Adult Discipleship Class** that will be held **Sunday** mornings March 1 – May 19 at 9:20 a.m. In the Upper Level Conference Room. The eleven (11), one hour sessions of this course are offered for both those who desire to become members of the congregation and for those who would like to review the basics of Biblical Christian teaching from the Lutheran perspective. All are welcome!

REJOICE ALWAYS! FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU.

Rev. Timothy L. Kinne, Sr. Pastor

A Message from our Associate Pastor Pastor Ed Blonski

As we (hopefully) quickly come to the end of winter and into Springtime, we will begin to feel an intense longing to be outside.

That feeling is deep in our bones, put there by God. After all, when God created humans, he put them into a garden to take care of it. And Adam was actually created *outside* of the Garden of Eden – out in the wilderness, so to speak. As we begin to long to be outside again, consider the people that you'll encounter.

This Easter Season, consider doing the following:

Bring the unchurched into the church.

Lead them to Christ.

Show them what a disciple is.

Lead them to be disciples.

Encourage and train *them* to...

...Bring the unchurched into the church.

Lead them to Christ.

Show them what a disciple is.

Lead them to be disciples.

Encourage and train *them* to...



...Bring the unchurched into the church.

Lead them to Christ.

Show them what a disciple is.

Lead them to be disciples.

That's part and parcel of being a Christian! Bringing people to meet Jesus!

Another way to put it is that we are broken people bringing Jesus to broken people. And Jesus will make us all whole again!

I pray that you will take this to heart. Please plan to join the **Every One His Witness workshop** with us this spring!

The mission of Lutheran Church Compassion, Presence, and Proclamation is to bring comfort, suffering and in need. Our staff, are blessed to be a presence with others Comfort Dogs.

The K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry at St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School

Charities [LCC] is to share the Mercy, of Jesus Christ to those who are dedicated affiliates, and many volunteers alongside our beautiful LCC K-9

LCC placed their first Parish Comfort Dog on September 1, 2008, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Hawthorn Woods. Comfort Dog Ladel was a young pup at the time, but quickly grew into her role as Comfort Dog. Her team's first major deployment was to comfort those after the 2011 tornado in Joplin, MO. In 2012, she comforted people in New York and New Jersey after Hurricane Sandy, followed in 2013 with deployments to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT, and to Boston after the Marathon bombing. Many other short-term deployments included tornadoes and floods in Kentucky and Illinois, and a presence in area schools after the deaths of students and/or teachers.

Ladel and other Comfort Dogs were featured on Good Day Chicago and were guests of honor on Good Morning America in New York City. Locally, Ladel and her team regularly visited residents at The Lexington in Lake Zurich, Alden Rehab in Long Grove, Wauconda Care, Mount St. Joseph, Lake County Haven, and WINGS [Women In Need Growing Stronger] domestic violence shelter.

Her calm and gentle demeanor, light wispy tan fur, beautiful eyes, and abundance of smiles brought joy to all those who met her. Ladel loved to greet "her people" at St. Matthew each weekend. Her love of bubbles, bananas, chasing squirrels and sharing the unconditional love of Jesus are known literally around the world by her fans on social media.

In the midst of our sadness, we praise God for the gifts He gave to Ladel and for the time He had given us with her. We pray that the Spirit of God will now comfort her team at St. Matthew and all those who will miss her daily presence.

If you would like to make a memorial contribution, there seems to be a no more fitting way than with financial support for either: the ongoing K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry Fund at St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School, or the ongoing LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Deployment Fund. That way the mercy, compassion, comfort and hope of Jesus Christ may continue to be brought to others.

A message from our Chair - Mr. John Kelly

Greetings and blessings to you and your family as we venture into a new decade. It seems like just yesterday that we were all worrying about "Y2K." If you have been around St. Matthew for any length of time, you have no doubt heard the term "willing worker." For an operation the size of St. Matthew, we have very few paid staff. Much of our work, and the work we do in the Lord's kingdom here on earth, is done by volunteers. We can always use more help! Currently, there are several open positions on the various boards and committees that support our efforts. None of these jobs require specific background or training, only a willingness to be involved. When an opportunity presents itself to help in an area in which you are interested, please prayerfully consider stepping forward. On Saturday, February 1, 2020, the leadership team will gather for devotions and planning for the coming year. In past years, these Leadership events have been well-attended and resulted in a great exchange of ideas. If you are on the leadership team, or serve on any board or committee, please plan on attending the Leadership Forum.



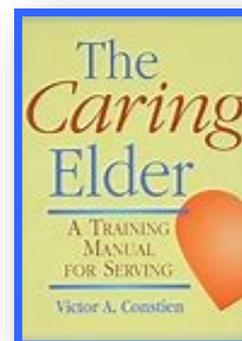
Mr. John Kelly

The Calling of a Caring Elder

As a Deacon of St. Matthew Church, I have only served on the Board for a short period of time. But, right away, I asked myself several questions:

- *Was this a calling?*
- *How will I serve?*
- *In what ways can I serve the Lord and the congregation?*
- *Will I be able to lead with my fellow Deacons?*

Initially, I found all these questions unclear. However, I know that I was being moved by the Holy Spirit! I needed to know more about what the mechanics were to being the "Correct Deacon" and lastly, how to "Round up my knowledge". The Pastors encourage us to participate in Bible Studies at St. Matthew and also introduced us to a study book called "The Caring Elder". This book was designed to open up our minds and provide us with a vision of what our responsibilities are as Deacons. We were asked to read and then answer the questions in the back of each chapter. Not only did we learn more about God, but we were challenged to think about how we as Deacons should help each other and fellow parishioners, become better servants of the Lord and how to be better disciples. Without this book, I (and probably others) would have missed something extremely important. I want to thank the Pastors for impressing the importance of this book. It's great to serve our Lord and I'm sure my fellow Deacons feel the same way. If you'd like to review a copy of the book, see Pastor Kinne (or me).



Also, now is the time for you to consider your calling. What is God asking you to assist with here on Earth? There are many volunteer service opportunities here at St. Matthew as well as in our community.

**What will be your legacy?
I hope part of it will be "Well Done Faithful servant."**

Deacon Don Brusa

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP THE LORD AT ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Lenten Dinners are served beginning at 5:30 PM
prior to the service in Kruger Hall.

The theme of the mid-week services is "Lenten Customs"
All mid-week services include the Sacrament of the Altar.

Ash Wednesday, February 26 12:00 Noon & 7:00 PM "Ashes" With the Imposition of Ashes	Wednesday, March 18- 7:00 PM "Foot Washing"
Wednesday, March 4- 7:00 PM "Fasting"	Wednesday, March 25- 7:00 PM "The Veil"
Wednesday, March 11 - 7:00 PM "Penitence"	Wednesday, April 1- 7:00 PM "Palms"



Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday Weekend

Saturday, April 5 - 5:30 PM – Sunday, April 6 - 8:00 & 10:45 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 9

7:00 PM Sacrament of the Altar — First Communion — Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 10

12:00 Noon — Liturgy of the Cross 7:00 PM — Tenebrae Vespers

Holy Saturday, April 11

5:30 PM — The Vigil of Easter — Sacrament of the Altar

Easter Sunday, April 12 - *Easter Customs: Bunnies & Eggs*

6:00, 8:00AM - Classic Service - Sacrament of the Altar

10:45AM - Contemporary Service - Sacrament of the Altar

7:00 - 10:30 AM - Easter Breakfast

From the Treasurer

God's blessings to you.

For the first half of the fiscal year offerings were \$453,541 compared to a budget of \$421,190. God has richly blessed us. Total expenses for the church and school for the six months were \$450,000 compared to a budget of \$503,258.

The Balance Sheet reflects \$938,110 in cash and investments, of which \$650,336 are designated funds. The Endowment Fund had a balance of \$224,458 as of September 30, 2019 (the December 31st statement was not yet available).

St. Matthew Lutheran Church and School

Statement of Income and Expense for four months ending December 31, 2019

Income	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	Last Year 12/31/2018
Envelope & plate offering	\$453,541	\$421,190	\$32,351	\$431,086
User fees	6,915	5,609	1,306	8,348
Gifts, Thrivent, auxiliary, other	8,606	3,473	5,133	3,998
School funding	10,584	10,584	0	16,500
School Tuition	22,560	21,487	1,073	19,070
Fundraising donations & revenue	25,245	26,000	(755)	26,905
Total Income	<u>\$527,451</u>	<u>\$488,343</u>	<u>\$39,108</u>	<u>\$505,907</u>
Expense				
Outreach beyond congregation	(\$11,000)	(\$22,250)	\$11,250	(\$16,000)
Pastoral, administration	(290,773)	(\$300,041)	9,268	(274,638)
School staff	(34,160)	(46,317)	12,157	(38,260)
Property	(92,822)	(113,650)	20,828	(121,714)
Fundraising expense	(21,245)	(21,000)	(245)	(19,807)
Total Expense	<u>(\$450,000)</u>	<u>(\$503,258)</u>	<u>\$53,258</u>	<u>(\$470,419)</u>
Restricted Income & Transfers				
Capital improvement envelope income	\$9,030	\$17,226	(\$8,196)	\$12,535
Transfer to Capital Improvement Fund	(\$9,030)	(\$17,226)	\$8,196	(\$12,535)
Total Restricted Income & Transfers	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Income less Expense & Transfers	<u>\$77,451</u>	<u>(\$14,915)</u>	<u>\$92,366</u>	<u>\$35,488</u>

**Balance Sheet
December 31, 2019**

Assets	
Cash and Investments	\$938,110
Land and Buildings	\$5,700,000
Total Assets	<u>\$6,638,110</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$0
Dedicated Funds	\$650,336
Total Liabilities	<u>\$650,336</u>
Equity	
Equity	\$5,729,254
Fund Balance	\$258,520
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$6,638,110</u>
<hr/>	
Endowment Fund (as of September 30, 2019)	\$224,458

It has been an honor to serve as your Treasurer the past six years. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Blessings to all,

Outgoing treasurer, Bonnie McLeod; 847-438-9322; mcLeod810@comcast.net

	C.O.O.L	
	CHRISTIAN OUTREACH OF LUTHERANS	
	February - Breakfast Items	(Bread for Life is the 23rd)
	March - Tuna	(Bread for Life is the 29th)
	April - Powdered Milk	(Bread for Life is the 26th)



To order altar flowers in honor of an occasion or in memory of a loved one, please contact the church office at 847-438-7709. The cost to you of \$25.00 for a standard, one-sided altar arrangement or centerpiece.



30th Anniversary

Pig & Corn Roast

Sunday, August 9, 2020!

I know God has a plan.
I pray for direction to follow it, patience to wait on it, and knowledge to know when it comes.



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

is offered on Sundays at 9:20 a.m. in the north end of Krueger Hall.



Adult Discipleship Class

will be offered for eleven (11) weeks on Sunday mornings during the Christian Education Hour (9:20-10:20am) from March 1 through April 17 in the Upper Level Conference Room. (No class on Easter Sunday, April 12) This is an informational class for those desiring to study the teachings of the Lutheran Church. This study is offered for both those who desire to become members of the congregation and for those who would like to review the basics of Biblical Christian teaching from the Lutheran perspective. All are welcome!

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday Evening Ladies Bible Study

Our current study is: "Trusting God: A life Without Worry". The class meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm in Luther Hall. For more information, please see Nancy Blonski on the weekends or you can email her at Nblonski@truemen.org.

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

Our Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study meets in Luther Hall from 8:30-10 a.m. on Thursdays mornings. For more information, please contact Deb Kinne at 224-360-2015 or debkinne@yahoo.com.



MEN'S MINISTRY

The **Men's Ministry of St. Matthew partners with Pastor Blonski's True Men Ministries** that provide in depth Bible studies on a variety of topics. We meet nearly every Saturday at 9:00 at the church, with a free breakfast provided on the first Saturday of the month. Upcoming topics include: *Every One His Witness*, and a topical study of the Gospel of Mark. Upcoming events include fishing, hiking, baseball games, and more!

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Middle & High School Bible Study

We meet on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sunday's of the month from 9:20-10:20am in the Youth Room.

Mom & Tots Class

Please pass along comments regarding the resurgence of this important ministry to Kristin Gierke.

St. Matthew thanks the Donna Grund family for providing materials for our Ladies, Mens & Sunday Morning Bible Studies.

OTHER BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Monday - Lutheran Church Charities Bible Study - Who is Jesus? - According to Jesus!'

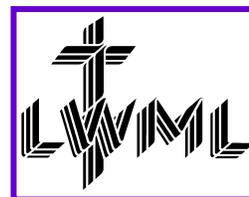
Join Tim Hetzner as he teaches live on Mondays at **St Matthew Lutheran Church in Hawthorn Woods** at 9:30AM or at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Palatine at 7:00pm.

Saddlebrook Bible Study

This Bible Study is offered on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:00 at Saddlebrook in Grayslake.

LWML NEWS by Nancy Blonski

ALL LADIES OF ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL



LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League)

All ladies of St. Matthew are members of LWML. There are NO Membership fees! LWML meets on a quarterly basis.

Dates for 2020 include:



Feb 2—Quarterly Meeting	July 12 - Picnic at Helen Burnidge's Home
March 7—Lenten Inspiration	September 11-12 - NID District Convention @ Holiday Inn Gurnee, IL
April 19 - Quarterly Meeting	October 4 - LWML Weekend
April 25 - Spring Rally at Beautiful Savior in Antioch, IL.	December 13 - Christmas Luncheon at Kemper with Ladies of the Congregation

SPECIAL REQUEST— MISSION PROJECT

We are collecting winter comfort foods with a balance of meat and vegetables (soup, stew, chili, etc.) through February 15th. Please place your donations in the box in the Narthex by the LWML table.

For more information on LWML, please see Nancy Blonski, Darlene Buchwald, Helen Burnidge or Maria Collard.
Thank you! Nancy

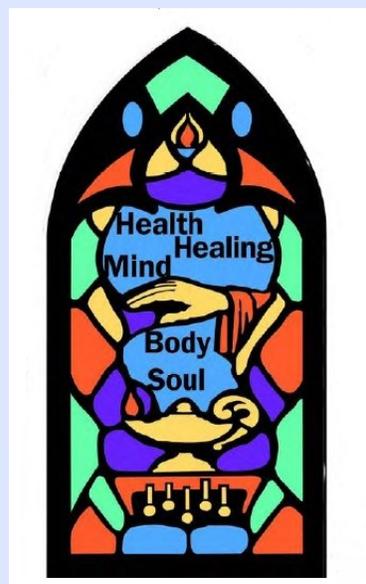


A note from our Parish Nurse. . Deb Andersen

Happy New and Healthy Year to you all.

The busier you are the faster the year goes by. I have seen many of you for your blood pressures taken on Sunday. At most I have seen 15 people. I love it! It is important to have your blood pressure monitored as hypertension is a common cardio vascular risk factor that can be treated. Keep in mind that when I take the blood pressure at church and when you take your blood pressure at home, the numbers will vary with those taken at the doctor's office.

At the doctor's office an increase of blood pressure is at times called "White Coat Syndrome". The key is consistency. Visits have been few this past year as I have been advancing my career as a nurse by taking a Masters in Nurse Education. I will have my diploma mid-February. My hope is to teach new nurses. Will see where the Lord will take me in 2020. Please stop and say hi on Bread for Life Sunday.



"The Lord be exalted. He takes pleasure in His servant's well-being." PS. 35:27.

EVANGELISM BY PASTOR BLONSKI

WITNESS IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE.

The *Every One His Witness*® Lutheran evangelism program considers the real world context in which Lutherans find themselves as witnesses of Jesus Christ. It puts sound doctrine into practical action for sharing the faith with the people whom God has placed alongside His witnesses in their everyday lives. Another one-day workshop will be held this Spring – tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 18.

At this workshop, you will journey through the LASSIE approach to witnessing – a relational, contextual witnessing approach that teaches us to naturally share the Good News of Jesus Christ by

Listening, Asking, Seeking, Sharing, Inviting and Encouraging.

Once you have completed the core-module, you have the opportunity to journey through online modules that will help you to

- **Witness to New Veterans**
- **Respond to Scientism** (a worldview that elevates science as the ultimate authority and source of truth).
- **Witness to Dechurched Adult Children**
- **Witness to Mormons**
- **Witness to Jewish People**
- **Witness to LGBTQ People**

And coming soon, the module *Witnessing to People with Depression and Anxiety* will also be available.

Sign up in the church office or contact Pastor Blonski for more information!



God is working out things that you haven't even prayed for yet.

Ladies' Aid News by Ellen VanOstrand

All ladies of the congregation are invited and urged to attend the Ladies Aid monthly meetings. This is an enjoyable way to have fellowship as we provide service to our congregation and out-reach to others. We gather the first Thursday of the month in Krueger Hall at 11:30 AM. A lite lunch is served followed by coffee and dessert. We have a devotion as well as a speaker or activity and a brief business meeting.



Crafters will soon begin work on items for our annual bazaar. Watch for the starting date, likely Wednesdays in February from 9:00 AM until noon in Krueger Hall. All are welcome to join.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Ladies' Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, December 13 at Kemper Lakes.

Sharing the Joy



Are you interested in becoming a part of this wonderful Ministry? . . . Please contact Cheri or Linda in the church office. Visit us on the St. Matthew website for more information and a listing of our 2020 calendar of projects and events. We are listed under Service/Organization/Sharing the Joy.

The St. Matthew Sharing the Joy Ministry would like to thank all who offered thoughts, prayers and gifts during our Angel of Joy mission this holiday season and throughout the year. It warms our hearts to help those in need. These projects offered over 40 families in surrounding towns; beds, gifts and words of hope and JOY of our Lord and Savior at Christmas! In addition, the ministry has worked with inner city Chicago schools, area hospitals and senior living centers to give JOY and comfort to those less fortunate. We hope you will continue to pray for our ministry moving forward. **THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND GENEROSITY!** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! God Bless!



Thank you

WITH LOVE
The St. Matthew
STJ Ministry Team

WOMEN'S GUILD by Ellen Wehrs

All women of St. Matthew Lutheran Church are invited to join this wonderful women's group at its monthly meetings and activities. Come share in the fun and fellowship as we explore opportunities to enrich our lives and support the mission of our congregation.

THANK YOU!!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who participated in our Christmas Card post office to exchange Christmas greetings with members of the congregation. Also, many thanks to all who participated in our Cookie Walk and purchased a variety of tasty, homemade cookies. A special "Thank You!" to all the cookie bakers who contributed to the success of this event – we couldn't have done it without you! Congratulations to Deb Anderson, winner of the gift basket that was raffled off to cookie bakers. Guild members – terrific job!

Upcoming Activities and Events!!



Sunday, February 9, 2020
Meeting – Noon – Luther Hall

It's time for pizza and Bunco! Bring a wrapped white elephant gift and join in the fun.



Sunday, March 8, 2020
Meeting – Noon – Luther Hall

A light lunch will be served. Activity to be determined.



Sunday, April 5, 2020
Meeting – Noon – Luther Hall

A light lunch will be served. Activity to be determined.

WOMENS GUILD FELLOWSHIP EVENT - We are planning our next fellowship event for Sunday, October 18, 2020. Stay tuned for further information!



COMFORT DOG MINISTRY

Malachi continues to comfort those in area nursing homes, rehab centers and funeral homes.

Please pray for his handlers as they minister to those who are hurting and in need of the name of Christ.

INFORMATION FOR BOARD OF EVANGELISM & PARISH SERVICES

Thank you to Carol Haste for her 6-year term serving on the Board of evangelism and Parish Services. Our current members are Wendell Peterson, Vicki Finzel, Nancy Blonski, Duane Stavnes and Arlene Meyer. Pastor Blonski is our advisor.



As Carol mentioned in the last VOICE the Board of Evangelism and Parish Services oversees many group:

Good News Callers	Nursery
New Member Orientation	Video Recording
Pig Roast	Children's Worship Bags
Thanksgiving Dinner	LERT
Coffee Hour	Parish Nurse
Comfort Dog Ministry	Meals on Wheels
Cool Food Pantry	Ladies Aid
Sharing the Joy	Women's Guild
JOY events	LWML

BASEBALL SUNDAY! Sunday, May 31 9:30am (1 service only)

Wear your favorite Baseball Jersey to church and plan on staying for a potluck after church. **There will only be ONE SERVICE at 9:30am.**



Brats and hot dogs will be provided.

- Last names beginning with A-M should bring a side dish to share.
- Last names beginning with N-Z should bring a dessert to share.

After we enjoy good food and fellowship we will have a game or two of softball on our own church fields.



Contact Nancy Blonski for more information. Also let Nancy know if you can help with grilling, set up and take down.



TEAM GARDENERS by Helen Burnidge

While the gardens rest in “winter sleep” **THINK SPRING!**
Our first clean up day will be the **April 4th**, if the weather is favorable. Watch the Messenger for more information.

A Poem to ponder by Helen Steiner Rice

Spring Awakens What Autumn Puts to Sleep

A garden of asters in varying hues,
Crimson pinks and violet blues,
Blossoming in the hazy fall,
Wrapped in autumn’s lazy pall...
But early frost stole in one night,
And like a chilling, killing blight
It touched each pretty aster’s head,
And now the garden’s still and dead,
And all the lovely flowers that bloomed
Will soon be buried and entombed
In winter’s icy shroud of snow...
But oh, how wonderful to know
That after winter comes the spring
To breathe new life in everything,
And all the flowers that fell in death
Will be awakened by spring’s breath...
For in God’s plan both men and flowers
Can only reach bright, shining hours
By dying first to rise in glory
And prove again the Easter story.

ST. MATTERS PLASTIC BAG MATS FOR THE HOMELESS

By Helen Burnidge

The St Matters have been busy making plastic mats for the homeless since Sept 2016. In that time we have completed 91 mats. Help us get to 100 mats in 2020. Come to Luther Hall every Thursday at 10 AM and help us make plastic mats for the homeless. There are many steps to making the mats. Many hands are needed to flatten bags, fold bags, cut bags, and loop together the plastic strips to make a plarn ball for the next step, which is crocheting the plastic mat. You do not need any experience. We will show you what to do.

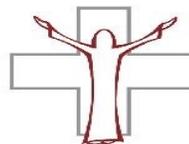


If you would like to learn how to crochet with the plastic plarn, we will be holding a workshop on Thursday, Feb 13th, in Luther Hall at 7P.M. Please sign up on one of the clipboards in Luther Hall and/or the Narthex; so we will know how many crochet hooks to bring.. Hope you will join us for a fun evening out and learn a new craft! If you can’t come on the 13th call me, and we will meet with you another time.

Helen, 847.438.4644

Youth Group Updates

2019 was an exciting year for the Youth of St. Matthew! We kicked off Halloween with Fall Fest, a fun night of dancing, pumpkin decorating, playing in the bouncy house and trick-or-treating through the halls! This was an exciting event for all ages and despite the weather everyone had a spook-takular time! The Middle and High School Bible Study have been meeting each week, and it has been fun to see the group grow this year! We enjoyed a Christmas themed end of the year gathering and spent time having Christmas treats as we discussed our plans and goals for the upcoming year! Breakfast with Santa was a blast, the kids had a fun morning of visiting and having breakfast with Santa! Our Young Adult Ministry ended 2019 with a big celebration in Atlanta Georgia at the Passion Conference! This conference brought 65,000 18-25 year olds together to celebrate Jesus! This movement brought people from all 50 states and 83 different countries together in Mercedes Benz Stadium for a big New Years Celebration with major speakers and music artist! It was amazing to ring in 2020 alongside all of these young adults, all singing their praises to our great Lord! It was such a heartwarming experience to see Jen Behrens and Julia Ketcham two young adults from our congregations growing in their faith and excited to spread the word! Beginning in January the Young Adults of St. Matthew and the community are invited to come to the Young Adults Hangout! This is open to anyone who is 18 through 30's! Each month we will meet at a local restaurant or gathering spot for fellowship and hangout time! A busy year is upon us as we prepare for three preschool fairs, the expo fair and more fun and exciting youth and young adult events! Just a reminder to save the date for "TEAM JESUS" VBS which will take place from July 20th- July 24th!



"THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU!"
2019-2020 — REJOICE ALWAYS



Upcoming Events & Important Dates:

January 11th: Fremont Library Preschool Fair
10:00AM-12:00PM

January 12/19: Middle and High School Bible Study in the youth room

January 22nd: Ela Preschool Fair 6:30PM-8:00PM

January 23rd: Young Adult Hangout (College age-30's)

January 28th: Wauconda Library Preschool Fair
6:00PM-8:30PM

February 2nd/12th: Middle and High School Bible Study in the youth room

TEAM JESUS VBS 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School
in Hawthorn Woods, IL

JULY 20TH-JULY 24TH
9:00AM-12:00PM



FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/306203266081660/?ref=bookmarks>

TWITTER

StMatthewYouth (@youth_matthew)

INSTAGRAM

Youthstmatthewlutheran

YOUTH GROUP HASHTAGE

#Stmatthewyouth

Kids Love to Learn About Jesus!

by Jaime Davison, SS Superintendent davisonclan1005@yahoo.com and
Kristin Dwyer, SS Superintendent kdwyerrd@gmail.com

Sunday School continues to have overall great attendance! We welcome and encourage any interested children age 3 through 4th grade to join us 9:20-10:30am each Sunday. There is no need to wait until the start of a new school year. If you have a friend or grandchild visiting bring them along to Sunday School!



One highlight of our year is the Children's Christmas Service. This year, the children were fantastic with strong singing and speaking voices as well as superb acting. It was a delight to see and hear the children share the good news of Jesus' birth answering the question of "What Child Is This?" Within the service we learned that Jesus came as a special king, He came to die to free us from sin, and He is a gift of love from God. Following we contin-



ued to celebrate Jesus' birthday with dinner and cake. Thanks again to all who worshipped with us that evening and supported the children.

Sunday School students have begun to work on songs to sing in church in February, and our final singing date for the year will be in May. We continue to study the Bible through the Enduring Faith curriculum from CPH. We have been adjusting the order of the lessons to coordinate with the church year as we are able.

Key Dates

2/23/20 Sing at the 10:45am service (tentative date)

4/12/20 No Sunday School - Easter Sunday

If you are interested in supporting Sunday School as a teacher, assistant, or to help with special events please contact us!

Jaime Davison, SS Superintendent
Kristin Dwyer, SS Superintendent

davisonclan1005@yahoo.com
kdwyerrd@gmail.com

JOIN US

at Sunday School because kids matter to God

Preschool News

Saint Matthew Lutheran Early Childhood Center News



School Happenings

We can hardly believe we are mid-way through the school year! Here's a brief recap of some of our Fall activities.

In October, the preschoolers celebrated with a masquerade parade and party. Mrs. Leonard did individual growth assessments in November and all the students are learning and progressing well. Everyone was well rested upon the return from Thanksgiving break. December was met with numerous activities and events, beginning with Breakfast with Santa. Everyone enjoyed a morning of fun, food, shopping, and visiting with Santa. Also in December, ECC hosted a fun assembly, featuring performance artist, Mary Macaroni. The children enjoyed dancing, singing, and movement activities during her visit. Ms. Stephanie, from Ela Library, also joined us for a dinosaur themed story and craft. The preschool class ended the first semester with a Christmas Celebration, which included all families. The morning began with a special Christmas Chapel Service, led by Pastor Kinne. Pastor read the Christmas Story from the book of Luke. The children dressed as angels, shepherds, Mary, & Joseph, and did an outstanding job singing, and portraying the Christmas story. After the program, the students, their families, and staff celebrated with a Happy Birthday, Jesus party. We all enjoyed a great Christmas break and are looking forward to more fun in 2020!

Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

January 26- January 31 - Lutheran Schools Week
January 30 - St. Matthew Early Childhood Open House
February 14 - Valentine's Day Celebration
February 17 - No School - Presidents Day Holiday
February 26 - Ash Wednesday Service
March 23-27 - No School - Spring Break
April 10 - No School - Good Friday Holiday
April 13 - No School - Easter Holiday



2020-2021 Registration

Join our preschool fun! Registration for St. Matthew Lutheran Early Childhood Center is now underway for the 2020-2021 school year. Please contact the school office to schedule a tour or and to learn more about our Early Childhood Program, for ages 3 years through prekindergarten. Registration packets are available in the school office, by calling 847-438-6103, or via email: schooloffice@stmattsonline.com.

2020-2021 Program & Grade Options	Tuition	
	Monthly	Yearly
3 & 4 Year Old Preschool Program		
Ages 3/4 (2) Half Days: 8:30am-11:00am	\$184	\$1,653
Ages 3/4 (3) Half Days: 8:30am-11:00am	\$261	\$2,341
Ages 3/4 (4) Half Days: 8:30am-11:00am	\$337	\$3,030
Ages 3/4 (5) Half Days: 8:30am-11:00am	\$396	\$3,562
Ages 3/4 (2) Full Days: 8:30am-2:30pm	\$355	\$3,195
Ages 3/4 (3) Full Days: 8:30am-2:30pm	\$494	\$4,444
Ages 3/4 (4) Full Days: 8:30am-2:30pm	\$607	\$5,463
Ages 3/4 (5) Full Days: 8:30am-2:30pm	\$731	\$6,573



St. Matts Purple Plungers 2020



Change happens and we accept that. So this year will be different. Pastor Blonski will be out of town and I have decided its time to grow up and admit plunging my body into freezing water isn't necessarily a good idea so I won't be plunging.

But because I believe whole heartily in what the "Purple Plunge" group do for the community, I am accepting donations. The monies collected are assigned to families in the community who have a loved one fighting cancer as it helps them with their day to day expenses that are not covered by their insurance.

This years PLUNGE is on Saturday, March 7 starting at 9am (1st plunge at 10am) at Breezwald Park in Lake Zurich.

I hope you will continue to support me and the Purple Plunge. Donations can be made through their website. <https://secure.ggiv.com/event/purpleplunge2020/donate/>

I have not registered the team but I am registered as an individual. *Blessings, Sally Henning*

St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School

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Subscribe to our YouTube channel. Here you'll see all the Devotional Moments, Sermons, and various other recordings made at St. Matthew.