

The St. Matthew Messenger



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

September, 2010

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FROM PASTOR MATT:

When I was in high school, I played soccer for a few years. I was never all that great at it, but I enjoyed the competition and the camaraderie of being on a team. I started playing in ninth grade... I'd played soccer for years before that in those Saturday morning soccer leagues at the local elementary school that used to be the thing for parents to haul their kids to. Now I think all kids play from the age of five on some kind of traveling team that plays at random times and in random places, any day of the week, all through the year. Things were simpler not all that many years ago, I think!

Anyway, when I got to ninth grade, I got my first taste of soccer for real. I'm reminded of that at this time of year because we're still in the grip of that muggy, awful late summer heat that seems to suck all of the moisture out of you whenever you step outside. Soccer camp would start in the middle of August, in the middle of the worst of this weather. When I was in ninth grade, it was HOT; low 90s at least, every day. We would arrive at the school for practice at 8 AM... well, 7:30, because being late was unacceptable. We would practice until 11 AM, then take a few hours' break, then return at 3 PM and practice until 6. During these six hours of practice, every day for two weeks, we ran at least 12 miles a day. We ran sprints, we ran long distances, and we ran sprints WHILE running long

distances. We ran, then dropped and did pushups, and then got up and ran some more. We ran, then rolled in the mud, then got up and ran some more. We ran while dribbling soccer balls... we most often ran without soccer balls. We ran while singing songs... we ran until some of us threw up. We ran a ridiculous amount... I still have nightmares about it!

And at the beginning of every day, I would get out of bed and think to myself, can I do this? I would look in the mirror, and count up all my bruises from the day before, and ask myself, "Matt, do you really LIKE playing soccer all that much? Do you really HAVE to put yourself through this?" But of course I would go, every time. And as I ran and ran and ran, trying desperately to keep up with players who were older and bigger and faster than me, I would think, there is no WAY I am coming back out here tomorrow. I just can't do it... how can I do this for a whole season? What am I getting, really, out of putting myself through this? Running and running and running... I had to really struggle with myself because every time, every day, I questioned whether I could do this.

And I think that I had to question whether I could do it, because if I hadn't questioned it, I might NOT have been able to do it.

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From Pastor Matt: (Continued from page 1)

I knew that there would be a lot of running involved, so I ran every day for months beforehand. Of course, I wasn't nearly as ready as I should have been when soccer camp began, but I was ready enough... just barely. And still every day, I had to "take stock" of myself: do I really want to do this? Should I do this? Am I ready? Can I do this?

Taking stock of ourselves, our current situation and our future potential, is a necessary thing we do. We can do it in small ways: do I have enough time to eat breakfast this morning, or will that make me late for work? We can do it in larger ways: am I ready to take on the responsibility of caring for an aging parent, or is that impossible for me right now? We can take stock of ourselves in practical ways: do I have the money to cover the bills? Can I do what I want to do with what I have? We can take stock of ourselves in our dreams for the future: will we someday be able to afford that bigger house? Could I possibly afford to change careers at this point in my life? Am I going to be able to get to where I thought I was going? We have the opportunity to take stock of ourselves and of our situations all the time. And at the heart of this taking stock

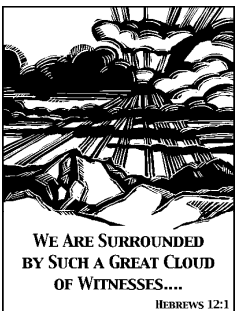
---► is asking the question, "Can I do this?" And then, seeking for an answer that satisfies.

As Christian people, and as a congregation of those who are committed to being the Body of Christ in and for the world, taking stock of ourselves is even more important... because for Christian people and the Christian community, the question "can I/we do this?" is not just a personal question, not just a question of personal achievement or our success or failure alone. We are witnesses to and workers in God's kingdom breaking into the world, and we stand in a long tradition, a long history of witness and work for that kingdom. When we take stock of ourselves and what we can do: physically, financially, emotionally, morally, spiritually... we're not just considering "doing" for ourselves. We're taking stock for our families and friends, our fellow members and people who need our help; when we ask "Can we do this?" we ourselves aren't the only ones affected by the answer, and we may not even be the ones MOST affected by it. We're also taking stock for the future... we're asking "can we do this?" not just for we who are here now, but also for all those who will come after us, people who may very well stand or fall based on what



we are able (or not) to do today. Sometimes, like when you're running wind sprints in August, it seems like we're doing all that we can possibly do, giving all we can possibly give, being all that we can possibly be... and that maybe we're getting close to the breaking point, close to giving up. But at moments like that, we are called to remember that as Christian people, as a Christian community we are not in this for ourselves alone, not in the world for only our own health and wealth, success and comfort. We are here to help bring in the harvest, to announce the kingdom of God to the world. We can do this. Stay strong.

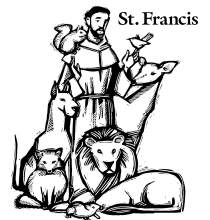
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." Hebrews 12



The Blessing of the Animals

**A special outside service on Sunday, October 3 at 2 p.m.
All are invited to attend with or without a pet.**

St. Francis of Assisi, whose day is traditionally celebrated on October 3 in the church year, was a person who had a wonderful connection to nature, animals and the beauty of God's creation.



St. Matthew will continue our tradition of blessing our members' pets. This will be done at 2 p.m. on the grassy area behind the church. Please be sure to bring anything necessary for your pet to enjoy the time together (leash or crate, scooper bags.) There will be a short outside worship service followed by light refreshments. We have blessed dogs, cats, lizards, hermit crabs, a donkey, goats, hamsters and even a cricket!

Our pets bring much joy to us. Their unconditional love and companionship enriches our lives. Caring for animals also helps teach children responsibility and aids in their socialization. Invite your friends to join in this colorful event.



ANNIVERSARY DAY

is coming to the
**Gettysburg Lutheran
Retirement Village**

Saturday, September 18, 2010
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

To make the day a BIG success, sale items are needed. Can you contribute baked goods, books, jewelry, plants or flea market items? We will collect items at the church office until September 1st. (Baked goods will need to be taken to the Gettysburg Lutheran Retirement Village on the morning of the 17th or the 18th.)

*To make this day a big success, we also need YOU!
Mark your calendar and plan to attend!*



Save the date of October 17 for Hanover's **CROP** Walk. We hope to have a **HUGE** participation from all age groups of St. Matthew. More to follow...

STEWARDSHIP

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“Aw-w-w, have a heart!” You've heard people say that. What do they mean? Usually, they are asking for some consideration of their position. People who say that are asking you to put yourself aside to serve their needs.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul writes about the church as a body, with each part doing its job. Think of the heart's selfless service. It beats 24/7. It's there when you need extra power. Even when you are at rest it beats, keeping the body's functions going. With every beat it receives and gives, receives and gives. Of all the blood the heart distributes each day, it takes very little for itself. It serves more as the conduit of life for the body.

The Christian who has a heart for God's world and His purposes serves in the same way. Such a person receives and gives, receives and gives, needing precious little to live on compared to what passes to the world. Such a person serves as a conduit of life for the church. And Scripture assures us that God makes sure that a Christian with heart has plenty coming in to give.

My family and I want to express our gratitude for the St. Matthew church family. During the past months we have appreciated the many kindnesses you have shown to Frances and me: Pastor Keyser's and Pastor Yeiser's hospital and home visitations and communion, the flowers and most recently, your expressions of sympathy following Frances' passing. Pastor Yeiser's comforting, compassionate visit to my home and service of bereavement were a source of hope, strength and peace for all of us.

Earl Ginter

I would like to express my appreciation for the beautiful flowers from the altar delivered to me on July 24. The white carnations and mums were still lovely after two weeks!

Mickey Fiery



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www.stmattlutheran.org

Return Service Requested

RALLY DAY

gets us "**Walking Through the Book of Faith!**"

Last year, we got our toes wet as we "Stepped Into the Book of Faith."

On **September 12**, everyone is invited to jump into the Bible a little further
and take a walk around!

Our 2 year olds through 6th graders, along with parents, will be able to take the newest

Bible Scavenger Hunt in our Sunday School classes
in the Education Building **beginning at 9:15 a.m.**

Special surprises will appear in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m.

All ages are welcome to take part in our Scavenger Hunt and

to join us in Fellowship Hall as we begin our "**Walk Through the Book of Faith!**"

RALLY DAY

The Rev. Daniel M. Yeiser, Ph.D., Senior Pastor 634-4025 (cell phone), 793-8059 (Home)
The Rev. Matthew B. Pensinger, M. Div., Associate Pastor 253-1132 (Cell)
The Rev. Arthur L. Ruths, D.D., Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. E. Edward Keyser, and The Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Cong. Visitation Pastors
Miss Jan M. Davis, A.i.M., Minister of Christian Education
Mr. Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music
Mrs. Karen L. Buckwalter, A.i.M., Associate Minister of Music



Summer Bell Choir

As I write this article, we are mid-way through the month of August and the summer bell choir has completed 3 out of 4 weeks of their summer session – and what a session it was! We had a full bell choir made up of both adults and children, some of whom had never rung handbells before! We even had two macho men to ring some bass bells, one an experienced musician and one who told me he had never done anything musical before in his life. After getting the hang of ringing our “red” and “blue” circled bells, we really began to make music!

Thank you to all who participated! It was great fun and I look forward to working with you again.

Karen Buckwalter

Men’s Ministry returns to the schedule on September 13, 7-9 p.m. in the Lounge. We will meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.



A CHILDREN’S SERMON will be offered on September 19 at the 8:00 and 10:45 a.m. services. All children through the sixth grade are invited to experience God’s Word spoken especially for them at this time. Our new series on the stained glass windows will begin, along with our presentation of Bibles to our third graders.

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CONVERSATIONAL BIBLE is our new Sunday School class beginning October 3 in room 302. You’ve heard of “conversational” language classes. You learn basic phrases to help you communicate about every day matters: “how much does that cost?” and “where is the bathroom?” Our “Conversational Bible” group will bring the Bible into our every day life. Using the Book of Faith resources, this class is especially for adults in their 20’s to 40’s. But if you are a little out of that range, you are still welcome! Come and be a part of the “conversation” this fall.

SERRV IN SEPTEMBER as we take another trip to the SERRV warehouse in New Windsor, MD. All adults are invited to help with the new inventory for SERRV stores and catalogue shopping. We might be pricing nightlights or packing soap dishes. Whatever we do, it is always fun and interesting and a great way to get to know others in our congregation. Lunch is included for your service, along with shopping opportunities in the volunteers area (usually 75% off!) and the main store. Our trip is Thursday, September 23. We will leave the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and will return around 5:00 p.m. Please contact Jan Davis by September 19 to SERRV.



BIBLES will be presented to our third graders during the 10:45 a.m. service on September 19. Each child will receive a new SPARK Bible (NRSV) to read at home and to bring to Sunday School. Parents will be invited forward to present the Bible to their children and to share this special occasion together. Jan Davis will lead a short session about the Bible during the sermon time for third graders and their families.



CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION takes place in Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. on September 19. All 7th and 8th graders and at least one parent is required to attend to be part of our confirmation program this year. Letters with more details will be sent out at the end of August. If you do not receive your letter by September 1, please contact Jan Davis at 637-7101.

BAROS BUDDIES meets on Monday, September 13, 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. We are a group that hopes we got “smaller” over the summer as we’ve been working on our summer challenge. We look forward to getting together to talk about our struggles with the scale, along with helpful hints for healthier living. All women of St. Matthew are invited for support with a lot of good humor and caring along the way.

NURSERY CARE during our 10:45 a.m. service is a vital ministry for families with younger children. This fall, we would like to explore expanding the nursery care for families in Sunday School with children under two years of age. This would allow more parents to participate in our adult classes or in teaching roles. If you are interested in nursery care for infants and toddlers from 9:00 to 10:50 a.m. on Sundays during the school year, please contact Jan Davis at 637-7101. Thanks!



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MOTIONS

June 15, 2010

Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 18, 2010 council meeting, was made by Steve Bell, seconded by Jane West, and passed.

Motion: To form a task force of six or eight members, with the purpose of developing a plan of prioritizing projects' expenditures and funding for the future; was made by Dirk Wildasin; seconded by Jody Ruhlman; and passed. Council agreed that Pastor Yeiser and Pastor Pensinger should both be ex-officio members of this task force. There was a list of names generated by council that Pastor Yeiser and DeAnn Books will contact to see if they would be interested. All candidates will be presented to council for vote at a special council meeting, scheduled for Monday, July 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the upper room.

Motion: To approve the May, 2010 Treasurer's Report, was made by Randy Kline, seconded by Sandy Little; and passed.

Motion: To approve the May disbursements for Special Needs (listed below) was made by Warren Miller; and passed.

May, 2010 Special Needs

World Hunger	\$2,000
LSS-SCP	\$1,000
FROGS	\$ 500
(Friends of Gettysburg Seminary)	
ELCA Vision for Mission	\$ 100
Lutheran Camping Corporation	\$ 400
	\$4,000

Motion: That \$13,000 from the May line "Local Ministries and Special Ministries," be transferred to the line "Current Parish Ministry of St. Matthew – 2010 and Forward;" was made by Warren Miller; and passed; with one no vote.

Motion: To adjourn at 10:10 p.m., was made by Steve Bell; seconded by Bob Curlen; and passed.

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

July 20, 2010

A special meeting of the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Council was called to order on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room.

Motion: That the appointed task force will begin meeting as soon as possible and will provide written updates prior to the September, October, and November council meetings, with a final written recommendation presented at the December council meeting; was made by Warren Miller; seconded by Jody Ruhlman; and passed.

Motion: To adjourn at 8:18 p.m., was made by Bob Curlen; seconded by Randy Kline; and passed.

From the Renovations Task Force:

As many of you know, we have been doing some preliminary work and repairs on our beautiful Austin Organ recently. This work was found to be necessary a few years ago after an extensive study was

done on the Organ following problems with many of the keys and stops as well as one incident of smoke coming from the main keyboard console. We, as a Congregation, agreed to pay for this preliminary repair work in order to get ready for what we knew was going to be an extensive renovation/repair on an instrument that has been such a blessing to our Congregation for so many years.



A few months ago, the Congregational Council had a study done on the current state of repair to the physical structure of our Church. The study, done by Masonry Preservation Services Inc., indicates that there are a number of structural repair issues that need to be addressed over the next few years. The costs of these facility repairs are certain to exceed \$1 million dollars. (The cost of the repairs to the building and the organ are expected to be over \$1 million each.)

As a result of both of these projects coming together at this time, the Council appointed a task force to do a complete review of both proposals in terms of costs, timelines, priority, and feasibility of such a significant undertaking at this time. We are also having this information evaluated and we are seeking second opinions on the full scope of the project.

The members of the task force are Bob Curlen, Barb Thomas, Beth Koontz, Nancy Leister, Bryant Meckley, Kevin Shenk, and Phil Sterner. Pastors Yeiser and Pensinger are ex officio members as well. Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers as they work towards a recommendation on how best to proceed with this challenge. As always, if you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact any of these members.