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The MESSENGER

JULY-AUGUST 2018 Newsletter

Message from Pastor Lynn...

Loving the Rubble

A little while back, during a discussion in our adult Sunday School class, I asked people to share their hopes and dreams for St. Matthew's. One of the people responded, unhesitatingly: "I hope it survives." Now, a lot of so-called experts would expect the pastor to gently, but firmly, encourage the person who said this (and the group who heard it) to aim higher, to have a loftier vision. Not me. I'm all in favor of hoping for survival. It's a worthy goal. In fact, it's pretty biblical. Psalm 102 is one of the great psalms written while the leaders of Israel were being held captive as exiles in Babylon hundreds of miles from Jerusalem and light-years away from its cultural and religious life which they had known and loved. This is a section of that Psalm (vss. 13-18):

You will arise and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to have mercy upon her;
indeed, the appointed time has come.
For your servants love her very rubble,
and are moved to pity even for her dust.
The nations shall fear your Name, O Lord,
and all the kings of the earth your glory.
For the Lord will build up Zion,
and his glory will appear.
He will look with favor on the prayer of the homeless;
he will not despise their plea.
Let this be written for a future generation,
so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord.

The psalmist expresses the love people have for Jerusalem and especially the Temple – the places where they had met God time and again and where all the key moments of their lives were placed under the blessing of God's presence. Even in her state of devastation — over-run, plundered, burned, walls and structures toppled and crumbling – she was loved: "your servants love her very rubble."

This rings familiar, doesn't it? Even at the worst of what you have experienced in the last year, even when Sunday attendance is embarrassingly small and the Sunday School is microscopic, "we love her very rubble." We love the church because the most significant moments of our lives occurred there or were celebrated there in the presence of God: births and deaths and marriages and confirmations and our kids' first solos in public and... Sure, some of this feeling is just sentiment and nostalgia, but that's not all it is. We love our church in its magnificence and its rubble, not only for itself and not only because it marks the place where momentous life-events were solemnized, but because we met God there and we know the place is holy.

We long to see our church survive (and flourish) not just to have it for ourselves, but "so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord." The survival and growth of St. Matthew's is not an end in itself any more than its founding 150 years ago was an end in itself. It is a beloved means to an end: that we might encounter God in this holy place, with these holy people, and together we might worship and grow and reach out in the love we experience to the world for which Christ died. We struggle and sacrifice and hope and dream to pass on the blessing "so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord."

See you in church! —Pastor Lynn

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From now through
September 2,
come enjoy the
summer by
worshipping
outdoors in the
pavilion! Worship
and Children's
Sunday school
begin at 9am



JULY-AUGUST
Worship Participants

Altar Guild

July: Christine Kluckhohn
August: Pamela Kaznica

Lay Readers

7/1 Karen Cuddihy
7/8 N/A
7/15 Gail Vara
7/22 Jacob Zdrojewski
7/29 Debbie Zdrojewski

8/5 Linda Velazquez
8/12 Joyce Corlett
8/19 Perry Kaupa
8/26 Dave Burger

Ushers

July: Team 2
Dave/Pamela Kaznica
Bill Hamm
Perry Kaupa
Steve Jankowski
Chris Goetz

August: Team 1
Andy Federmann
Donn Mergenhagen
Clayton Errington
Jeff Rich
Kurt Rich
Don McMillan
Ken Kruszka

Children's Sunday School

Teachers

7/8 Tammy Kruszka
7/15 Joann Ertel
7/22 Joann Ertel
7/29 Joyce Corlett

8/5 Beth Stormer
8/12 Beth Stormer
8/19 Tammy Kruszka
8/26 Tammy Kruszka
No Sunday School on 9/2

Summer Outdoor Worship continues! 9:00am in the pavilion
We return to 10:30am service indoors on Sunday, September 9.

Special Worship Service on July 8th

Sunday morning, July 8th, those present for worship were privileged to experience a very special worship service alongside visitors from Delaine Waring AME Church. The Rev. Tristan Salley preached a powerful message about God's great faithfulness to our churches for the past 150 years, with another 150 years of blessings to come.

LaDonna Painter and the Anniversary Committee organized a wonderful time of fellowship after the worship service which included a delicious brunch. Beth Stormer presented Rev. Salley with an old anniversary plate with a picture of the original church building which is now their place of worship.



Thank you to the Anniversary Committee, Pastor Lynn, and Perry Kaupa who shared with us his memories of the old church during an "Anniversary Moment". Also, thank you to all who contributed monetarily, and worked to prepare the food, set up (decorate) and clean up.



"Uplifting! The Spirit was definitely in our midst!"
-Barbara Middaugh

"The start of a wonderful spiritual fellowship. Amen!" -Joyce Corlett

"Great to have that personal connection with the extended body of Christ." -Don McMillan

"Church is not something you go to. It's a family you belong to." -Joann Ertel's favorite quote about church

"Amen!!!" -Jay Rich

Summer Sunday School

fun lesson * craft * music * snack



While you are worshipping outside, the kids will be in the F.R.O.G. room learning and having fun! Classes will run from July 1 through August 26. Questions? Please contact Tammy Kruszka (648-0343 or tlkruszka@yahoo.com).

Guest Preachers in July & August:

July 22 - Rev. Marna Pritchard; July 29 - Rev. Gary Burdick; August 5 - David Burger; August 12 - Pastor Alva Looze

Worship & Picnic at Dunkirk

Forty individuals spent the morning of June 24th worshipping at Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center in Mother's Memorial Building and then sharing a meal inside the Activity Center. Despite the rainy weather, a good time was had by all.



Back by Popular Demand!



**Save the Date!
Saturday,
September 22**

Mark your calendar for **September 22** for a fun adult game night! LaDonna Painter will begin organizing this event shortly. She will be looking for 4 couples from our church family to be the contestants, and of course, she'll be counting on everyone else to be the audience.

Activity Group

During this past church year, the Activity Group met for fellowship, good food and fun on the third Thursday of the month (exceptions: January/February). They enjoyed singing along with Ken Haberman's piano and Gary Burdick's guitar, and listening to a devotion or program. Robin Federmann helped make the gatherings festive with beautiful decorations and helped make the gatherings special for everyone.

The Activity Group will reconvene with a potluck luncheon starting at noon on Thursday, September 20, 2018. Everyone is welcome!





A look back...

The early 1900's were busy years for St. Matthew's. The church was renovated and a new organ was installed. The original church had 2 aisles with the pulpit in the center. During the renovation, the pews were rearranged and a center aisle was created with the new organ front and center. The organ was dedicated on September 14, 1902 and cost \$3,000.

In 1906, the church burned their mortgage on February 25th becoming debt free.

On August 13, 1913, tragedy struck the church with the death of their minister Rev. Bommer and his wife. They were killed in an auto accident in Mayville, NY. After Rev. Bommer's death, the Rev. Davis became the minister and served from 1913 to 1917. He was very Christian Education minded and many advances were made in Sunday school, confirmation classes, and children's choir. As a result, young people were trained in leadership training schools and 6 young men went into the ministry. One of these men was Rev. Herman Fenske who later became St. Matthew's minister for 29 years.

During the first 50 years, 3,734 were baptized, 1,776 were confirmed, and 1,216 were married. The membership was about 400. Services were held both in German and English.

In March, 1934, in Cleveland, Ohio, the Evangelical Synod of North America and the Reformed Church of the United States merged and St. Matthew's became a member of the E & R church of the WNY Synod.

At that time many improvements were made to the St. Matthew's Cemetery. Additional land was acquired and new roads were constructed at the cost of \$12,000. In 1939, a Perpetual Care Fund was established; 25% of the net income was put into the fund. In 1960, the fund grew from \$10,000 to \$93,253.

In 1940, the school building and the steeple were condemned. The steeple was removed and a modern school hall was built.

In 1943, the organ needed work but because of WWII, the work was delayed until after the war. The organ was electrified and chimes were added. The refurbished organ was dedicated on December 28, 1947, in honor of Gordon Brader, William Burden, and Leonard Kohl who died for their country.

-Marilyn Rich

Stay tuned for more of our history next month...

* * *

The Anniversary Committee wishes to thank everyone involved in the organization, planning and work put into making the morning with Delaine Waring special. We appreciate the donation of breakfast pizzas by Major Tom's Restaurant.

LaDonna Painter, Chairperson; Marilyn Rich; Brenda Carver; Steve Jankowski; Perry Kaupa; Pastor Lynn

* * *

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, October 28

The 150th year celebration luncheon will be in October and follow the worship service. Tickets will be \$15/per person and be available for sale soon. Watch for ticket updates.

Nancy Jankowski
Denise Woodruff
Karen Kaitanowski
Lisa Miller
Becky Mauser
The family of Karin Meyer
Bob Velazquez



All those in need of healing
Chronic pain sufferers
Military personnel & veterans
Those who are homebound
St. Matthew's Church
Search Committee

If you would like prayers publicized here, please contact the church office or fill out a Prayer Request Form. If you have a more immediate prayer concern, text Michelle Kemp at 245-1692 or call Dolly Errington at 823-6210 to begin the prayer chain.

Happy Birthday!

7/7	Liam Kaznica	7/16	Emily Rich
7/8	Ken Kruszka	7/17	Phil Vara
7/8	Luke Rich	7/24	Doug Stormer
7/12	Ed Simon	7/26	Philip Stormer
7/14	Marilyn Mergenhagen	7/29	Brandi Whytas
7/16	Jessica Goetz		



Anniversary Blessings

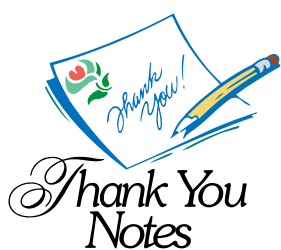
John & Karen Kaitanowski *Ed & Kathee Simon*
July 10, 1971 July 22, 1967

Adam & Kim Hamm *Collin & Natalie McArdle*
July 21, 2007 July 30, 2016

Change of Address:

Tracy Meyers & Rev. Marna Pritchard
4141 Chatham Drive, Hamburg (cell phones same as listed in directory; no landline)

NOTE: 2017 Church Directories are still available, as well as an additional page of all the contact information changed or added since that directory was published. They are both on the table in the Narthex.



To our family at St. Matthew's,
Thank you so much for your thoughts & prayers during our time of loss.
Thank you Pam & Dave for greeting & handing out bulletins, Michelle for the beautiful bulletins, & Pastor Lynn for the time, talk & wonderful service.

God bless you all,
Pam Lach & Family

Dear St. Matthew's,

Thank you so much for the beautiful and thoughtful Mother's Day flowers Marilyn Rich delivered to me. It was so nice to see her.

I'd also like to thank Rev. Lynn for coming to visit me. It was a great pleasure to meet him, and I'm so looking forward to hearing his sermons that everyone I've heard from raves about.

Also, I'd like to thank Jane Duewiger, my rock, for always keeping in touch and being there for me despite her own challenges. (I love you, Jane.)

God bless all of you for your thoughtfulness, prayers, and caring.

I hope to see you soon.

*God bless you,
Karen Kaitanowski*

PS Thanks to Michelle Kemp for keeping me in the loop, especially for prayer requests.

Massachusetts Avenue Project— MAP



On Sunday, June 17, Executive Director of MAP, Diane Picard, joined us for worship and shared with us a Mission Moment about their work helping the communities on the West Side and beyond. The Mission Committee was excited to present this new mission opportunity to the church with hopes to continue this relationship as MAP continues their good work building community through food, urban farms, social enterprise and youth development.

The generous monies donated by our congregation has helped fund a mobile market tent. (We raised over \$700 towards the \$1,000 price tag of the specialized tent they needed.)

On behalf of MAP, thank you for your generous giving.



Friends of Night People

After a month's hiatus in July, volunteers from St. Matthew's return to FoNP in August. We still need volunteers to go serve at the site on August 1. Please contact Dawn Goetz or sign up outside the pavilion on Sunday.

You can also volunteer by baking cupcakes/brownies.

THANK YOU to the volunteers who have signed up to deliver meals in July with Meals on Wheels!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The group won't be meeting during the summer months. Join us in September! Date TBD.

For more information about this ministry, check out the May or June Messengers or call Alva Looze (866-5121). If you know someone who would like the gift of a shawl, please talk with Pastor Lynn.



There are behind-the-scenes volunteers at St. Matthew's — "Caregivers" — who give of their time to help friends in the congregation by making/delivering a meal; driving to a doctor's appointment; cleaning house/yard and other ways. The Caregiver Volunteer Form lists ways we support those in need. (Look for forms in the red folder posted on the Missions & Outreach bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall.)

If you'd like to volunteer to do any of the above, please fill out the form and give to LaDonna Painter (or put in mailbox #67).

Also, if you or someone you know could use help by receiving a meal or ride, etc., please contact LaDonna, Pastor Lynn or the church office.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OTHER MINISTRIES

(Friends of Night People, Blasdell Food Pantry, Matthew 25: Ministry)

Collection bins in classroom near Fellowship Hall.

***Seasonal clothing, children's books, toiletries** for FoNP.

***Plastic bill bottles** go to *Matthew 25: Ministries*. They are used to improve medical care in developing countries and help our environment.

***Canned/nonperishable food items** go to Blasdell Food Pantry. Food items can be brought to the church on the first Sunday of the month (to be delivered that week). Volunteers are needed to deliver the items once a month. Please sign up on the bulletin board.



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 Rev. Lynn R. Morgan
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 Norman D. Wahl
 716-440-5176
 normwahl@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
 Michelle Kemp
 716-245-1692 (h)
 716-649-1532 (o)
 Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9am-2pm,
 Thurs. 9-12, & Fri. 12:30-3:30pm

Custodians:
 David & Pamela Kaznica
 716-913-6927 (David)
 716-913-7504 (Pamela)



Hard work and fun at this year's Spring Clean-up!



Hard working Zdrojewski boys



Thank you to the many volunteers who came out to spruce up the church property—inside and out!



Mid-Year Financial Update

Income, mainly from offerings at June 30th is under budget by \$30,682. General operating expenses are also under budget by \$19,880. This leaves a shortfall (deficit) of \$10,802. If all remains the same, we will have an operating deficit in excess of \$20,000 by year end.

95% of the operating expenses are fixed costs for staffing, utilities, and normal maintenance of the church and grounds.

After your prayerful consideration, any increase to your General Fund offering would be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please ask me, Beth Stormer or any Church Council member.

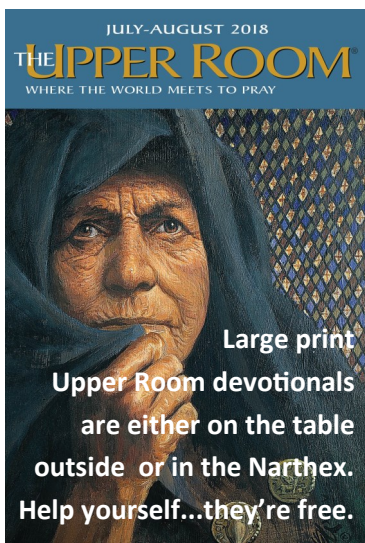
Thank You.

In His Service,
 Joyce Corlett, Treasurer

Mission Committee Update

The Committee is looking for someone to represent St. Matthew's in Churches In Action (CIA), whose goal is the facilitate missions by providing churches with a simple way to serve. There are approximately 5 projects/events through the year that CIA organizes, and volunteers come from St. Matthew's and other local churches.

If you would like to participate in this way, or have any questions, please contact Dawn Goetz or Alva Looze. For more information about CIA, go to their website: churchesinaction.com.



Large print
 Upper Room devotionals
 are either on the table
 outside or in the Narthex.
 Help yourself...they're free.

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Our church building is fully accessible.

No matter where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here!