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Celebrating  
**150**  
Years

October is finally here!  
In honor of our 150th anniversary, come enjoy a day of recognition, celebration and fellowship on October 28!  
Tickets for the anniversary luncheon are on sale until the October 14<sup>th</sup>.

More information on next page

## No Bull

Nothing delights kids of a certain age more than finding something that seems naughty in unexpected places. And what could be a more unexpected place than the Bible? I don't know what budding Bible scholar discovered that in the old RSV, Psalm 50:9 begins with the phrase: "I will accept no bull from your house..."but I do know that all the kids in the Sunday School learned that verse quicker than our assigned memory verses. We were constantly quoting it to one another. Whenever Psalm 50 comes up in the rotation of my daily Psalm readings, I still smile about the way we bandied that verse about.

After all these years, I'm going to quote Psalm 50 at you. I'm not descending again into adolescent insults and I'm not going to quote verse 9. I'm skipping down a few verses to verse 12, in which God speaks to Israel and says:

"If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the world and all that is in it is mine.

God's message in the psalm is that God doesn't need sacrifices of bulls and goats. God wants righteous living and the sacrifice of thanksgiving.

The psalmist expresses a key element of theology, which those 'in the trade' call Divine satiety. This is just a fancy way of saying God has no needs; God lacks nothing. Therefore there is nothing that we can give God that God doesn't already possess. God doesn't need your bull. Or your goats. Or your house. Or your labor. Or your dedication. Or your paycheck. God can get along just fine with none of these things. God didn't need a helping hand in creating the universe or in dividing the waters of the Red Sea or in raising Jesus from the grave. God has got it covered. If you withhold your efforts, your love, your good will, your wealth and your sweat, God will not suffer loss. God is all sufficient and has no needs.

This may seem like a funny thing to remind people of as a way of kicking off the stewardship program at church, but honesty demands it. If you never give another cent or another minute of your time, if you refuse to give even the least of your efforts or any of the fruits of your talents, God's Kingdom will not collapse and the will of God will not be thwarted. God will not go hungry or be bereft of anything.

God doesn't need you, or me, or anything.

But St. Matthew's United Church of Christ does need you. It needs your money. It needs your time. It needs your talent and your labor. It needs your best thinking and your deepest imaginations. It needs your prayerful support in every way imaginable. God can get by without us, but if we are going to serve God and be available for God's purposes, we have to give of ourselves. Honestly, we all have to give more than we have been giving if we want to continue our ministry in the ways that we currently do.

God doesn't need what we give, but we need to be givers. We need, as Christians, to offer ourselves to God. If you have given your life to Christ, then all that you are and all that you possess is his. Paul calls us to present our very selves as "a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Romans 12:1) Gifts of our time, talent and treasure are the means of placing our selves at God's disposal. Our acts of giving and dedication are the way we act as partners in Christ's ministry and mission. God may not need us, but God wants us; God will use us, and God will bless us if we make ourselves available to serve. Please pray and prepare yourselves to give generously to the ministry of Christ through St. Matthew's.

See you in church! -Pastor Lynn



## SEPTEMBER Ministry Volunteers

### Altar Guild

October: Nancy Williams

### Lay Readers

10/7 Emma Rich  
10/14 Debbie Zdrojewski  
10/21 Alva Looze

### Ushers

Team 1

Andy Federmann  
Donn Mergenhagen  
Clayton Errington  
Jeff Rich  
Kurt Rich  
Don McMillan  
Ken Kruszka

### Greeters & Coffee Hour

#### Hosts

10/7 Mary & Bill Hamm  
10/14 Gail Vara  
10/21 LaDonna Painter

Thank you to the Council for being Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts for September & October.

If you would like to be a host, please contact me.

-LaDonna Painter  
(715-7310)

PS You don't have to be on a committee to take a turn hosting or co-hosting.



## Saturday's 4pm Service of Word and Sacrament continues

Weekends get over-booked. If worship on a Sunday morning doesn't fit your schedule, you might try the Saturday afternoon service. In about 40 minutes you will hear the Word of God and a homily from the pastor, share in prayer and have the opportunity to receive Holy Communion. Please avail yourself of the Saturday liturgy if it fits your schedule and invite others who may wish to experience a welcoming church with open hearts and open minds that celebrates a traditional liturgy.



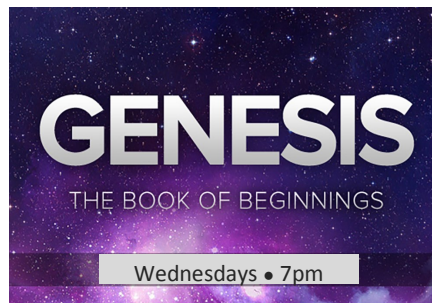
## New Time for Children's Sunday School

Beginning Sunday, October 7, Children's Sunday School will begin at a new time! All children in kindergarten through 5th grade can head to the FROG room after Children's Time

Celebrating  
**150**  
Years  
1868-2018

## Come Celebrate God's Faithfulness!

On Sunday, October 28, come be part of this special day in which we celebrate God's faithfulness throughout 150 years of St. Matthew's ministry. Our Associate Conference Minister, The Rev. Ryan Henderson, will preach in the morning service and the catered luncheon will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets for the luncheon are on sale now through October 14. We are only offering presale at a cost of \$15.



## Adult Bible Study continues

Come when you can to learn, reflect, and discuss the book of Genesis at this mid-week bible study led by Pastor Lynn. It meets on **Wednesdays at 7pm**.

Come when you can! Friends are welcome.

## Neighbors in Need Offering - Sunday, October 7.

This special offering is part of the homeland missions of the United Church of Christ and it provides funding to practical programs offering material and spiritual help to those in need throughout the country. Envelopes will be in your bulletin on Sunday, September 30, and collection will be the following week October 7. You can also pick up an envelope from the Narthex table.

Marilyn Mergenhagen  
 Kathee Simon  
 Dawn Chmielowiec  
 Roger Corlett  
 Nancy Jankowski  
 Gayle Woodruff  
 Karen Kaitanowski  
 Vera & Lena (Andy Federmann's sisters)



Jerry Caruso (Marilyn Rich's friend)  
 Becky VanGorden (Debi Thiel's friend)  
 Family of Barry Stump (Dolly & Clayton Errington's friend)  
 John Pankow Family (Bill Hamm's sister's family)  
 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!

10/4 Shirley Haberman	10/14 Chris Goetz	10/16 Dolly Errington
10/5 Linda Velazquez	10/14 Pam Lach	10/22 Jay Rich
10/7 Eli Hamm	10/15 Cindy Rich	10/23 Ruth Bernhardt
10/8 Emma Rich	10/16 Joyce Corlett	10/28 LaDonna Painter

### Anniversary Blessings

<i>Doug &amp; Beth Stormer</i> October 10, 1987	<i>Dave &amp; Karen Cuddihy</i> October 10, 1992	<i>Roger &amp; Joyce Corlett</i> October 13, 1989	<i>Bob &amp; Linda Velazquez</i> October 18, 1986
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### Congratulations!

*Charlie Rose Hacic* was baptized on September 30. Her parents are Tim & Andrea Hacic and grandparents Ron & Cheryl Larson welcomed everyone to share in the celebration with cake and coffee following the service.

Grandparents Bill & Mary Hamm announce the birth of their tenth grandchild, *Arthur Lawson Hamm*, born on September 24. Arthur was born to Ben & Julianna Hamm and he joins his big brother, Ben Jr.



Activity Group is back for another year of "Chat and Chew" with Folk Group, "Jam at the Ridge", as our guest for the September kick-off.



This ecumenical group welcomes all! Come enjoy fellowship on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 12noon. Mark your calendars and bring a dish to share on **October 18**.



*Ken & Shirley Haberman waltz across Fellowship Hall to "Waltz Across Texas"*

The next 60 years at St. Matthew's were busy years. The final cost of the new Church was \$257,000 plus furnishings and \$7,000 for the parking lot. A parsonage was bought on Mark Avenue in Hamburg in 1962 for \$22,945. This brought the congregation together in fun and fellowship and love working toward paying off these debts.

Pastor Sandt began his Pastorate on August 1, 1963. He started the Bethel Bible Series by teaching 5 members an intense study of the Bible so they could in turn teach a class for those interested in the congregation. His confirmands also studied this series and expounded on it for their Lesson Sunday before their confirmation.

Pastor Sandt was a diabetic and woke up one morning to a sea of red and was blind. The congregation rallied behind him and the Lay Reader program was started to relieve him of reading the Scriptures during the service. He was pleased that he was able to continue his services and did not have to leave his ministry. That's the spirit of St. Matthew's - to help and care for one another.

The Women's and Men's Fellowships were very active in monthly meetings and raising money to reduce the debt. Roast Beef Dinners were held spring and fall serving up to 400 people and everyone young and old participating. Kathee Simon's grandmother made a delicious cole slaw that we all looked forward to.



A Pairs and Spare Club was formed for couples and singles and met on Saturday evenings once a month; and so it wasn't just a social club, it was decided to have rummage sales in the spring and fall to help toward the debt. They held square dances, Halloween parties, etc., and great times were had by all.

An Activity Club was started by simply bringing a bag lunch and people enjoyed games and cards and fellowship. This eventually grew into over 100 people attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month with a luncheon and entertainment. It was very ecumenical with people coming from near and far. They too had a small bazaar room during the Roast Beef dinners with proceeds going to the debt and eventually to the Schueler Scholarship Fund in memory of their hardworking leader Evelyn Schueler.

The Choir also grew under the leadership of Dr. Mildred Fischle who had also been at old St. Matthew's. Millie also had a set of chapel bells and formed a Bell Choir which played at special services and in the community.



The youth group had fun on several ski trips and going to Acuna, Mexico for mission trips. They made cement blocks from scratch to construct the building, and Rev. Andy Armstrong remarked after the trip that he learned that "manual labor" was not the Mayor of Acuna!

The Women's Fellowship held several "Serve Fairs" with products from all over the world and the money going to the people who made them. They also published several cook books and had homemade Fastknachts sales during Lent.

A pavilion was built for outdoor activities and Pastor Andy started a 9 AM children's service for half hour each Sunday during the summer. This eventually grew in attendance as people enjoyed getting out earlier to enjoy our summers. Pastor Hanks wanted a longer service which was harder for him to get from a 9AM service outside to a 10AM service inside so eventually, only an outside service was held from late June to early September.

The Sunday School also grew and some years they added a class on the stage. Vacation Bible School also took place with close to 90 to 100 kids attending and eventually went to a combined VBS with St. James and Hamburg Presbyterian churches.



An elevator and enlarged entrance way were added to accommodate those unable to take the stairs.

The St. Matthew's Cemetery also was growing. A new office building and a Chapel were built. The Chapel is in the shape of a ship and our dedicated parishioner Roy Duewiger built the altar, crosses, and lecterns. The altar also has a ship's wheel on the front and Roy carved individual letters of the words, "Jesus Savior Pilot Me" to surround it. The Amish made the pews and it seats 75 people. Sunrise Easter services were held. The Cemetery was holding close to 700 burials a year.

Around 2006, Forest Lawn Cemetery started approaching the Board to purchase the Cemetery. It took a lot of thought for 2 years to make a heart-wrenching decision to sell our beloved Cemetery. Not knowing about the future management of the Cemetery and an opportunity to sell, the congregation voted to sell in October 2008. It is still one of the best Cemeteries around.

The world is changing dramatically and attendance in all churches is decreasing. It is our hope through prayer and God's guidance St. Matthew's will continue to serve our community.

## Missions & Outreach



**Undies Sunday:** Thank you to everyone who donated underwear and socks for those in need in our extended community. It was CIA's annual mission to supply the area's shelters with these essential items.

*We are still looking for someone in our congregation to represent us on the board at Churches In Action (CIA). There are only a couple of meetings during the year and you'd help plan the mission projects and then communicate them to our church so we can all get involved.*

*Please contact Dawn Goetz or Alva Looze*



### Prayer Shawl

Everyone is invited to participate in this monthly gathering of those who wish to crochet or knit shawls to be blessed and delivered to someone who can be comforted by the shawl.

The group meets on the first Saturday of the month at 9:30am, in the Parlor. Our first get-together is October 6.

If you have any questions or know of anyone who would benefit from receiving the gift of a prayer shawl, please contact Alva Looze (866-5121) or Pastor Lynn.



There are many behind-the-scenes volunteers at St. Matthew's called "Caregivers" who give of their time and talents 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.

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.



### Friends of Night People

**Next date: Wednesday, October 3.**

Volunteers are always welcome to help serve people in need of a hot meal, sweet dessert and friendly face to serve it.

The sign-up sheet is on the landing. Questions? Contact Dawn Goetz (649-5894).

## WAYS TO SUPPORT OTHER MINISTRIES

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

**\*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.

Collection bins in classroom near Fellowship Hall.



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 716-649-1532; office@stmattsucc.org  
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*Transitional Pastor:*  
 Rev. Lynn R. Morgan  
 716-866-3085  
 pastor@stmattsucc.org

*Director of Music:*  
 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)

## Thank Offering Boxes

November 18

Every year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we collect your thank offering boxes and the coins you collected throughout the year (or part of year).



Of course, on that special Sunday, donations of any kind are accepted. The proceeds will go to local missions.

Boxes can be found in the Narthex, and every time you are thankful for something, drop a coin or two in the box!

## Gift giving time is soon approaching!!

Remember **F.I.R.S.T. certificates** are a welcome gift. These \$10 certificates are accepted at many of our local independent restaurants.

Purchase these for \$10 and use them like a \$10 bill at participating establishments. In return, St. Matthew's earns \$2.50 for everyone sold. These certificates never expire !!!!

A great idea for your hairstylist, paper person, mailperson, neighbor, babysitter, or even keep one for yourself to use.

The proceeds help defray the cost of our new parking lot.

See Steve/Nancy Jankowski at church or call 826-0012.



The September & October issue is now available on the table in the Narthex.

Benefitting Senior Programs of United Church Manor...

### Annual Theme Basket & Silent Auction Luncheon

Saturday, November , 2018; The Columns Banquets  
 Flyer is posted on the Community bulletin board.



Average Attendance for August (including Saturday Services): 51

### Giving Month of August:

	General/Building	Mission
Total Received:	\$ 7,237	\$167
Monthly Goal:	\$12,900	\$918

Note: September figures will be in next month's Messenger.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Folk Group 6:30p	3 AA 10:30am Friends of Night People Outreach <b>Adult Bible Study 7:00pm</b>	4 Praise Band 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm OA 7:30pm	5	6 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30a <b>Saturday Service 4:00pm</b>
7 <b>Worship &amp; Children's SS 10:30am</b> World Communion Sunday - NIN Offering	8	9 Council 7pm Folk Group 6:30p	10 AA 10:30am <b>Adult Bible Study 7:00pm</b>	11 Praise Band 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm OA 7:30pm	12	13 <b>Saturday Service 4:00pm</b>
14 <b>Worship &amp; Children's SS 10:30am</b> <i>Congregation Meeting follows service</i>	15	16 Mission 7pm Folk Group 6:30p	17 AA 10:30am <b>Adult Bible Study 7:00pm</b>	18 Activity Group 12noon Praise Band 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm OA 7:30pm	19 <i>Nov. Messenger Deadline</i>	20 Quilt Day 9am-4pm <b>Saturday Service 4:00pm</b>
21 <b>Worship &amp; Children's SS 10:30am</b> <i>Stewardship Sunday CROP Walk</i>	22	23 Folk Group 6:30p Quilters 7:00p	24 AA 10:30am <b>Adult Bible Study 7:00pm</b> <i>Annual Reports due to office</i>	25 Praise Band 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm OA 7:30pm	26	27 <b>Saturday Service 4:00pm</b>
28 <i>Celebrating 150 Years</i> <b>Worship &amp; Children's SS 10:30am</b> <b>Anniversary Luncheon follows service</b>	29	30 Folk Group 6:30p	31 AA 10:30am			

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Our church building is fully accessible.

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