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Commencement

An old *Far Side* cartoon shows a pet owner earnestly lecturing his dog: “Ginger, you’ve been a bad dog. You must never do this again. Ginger, if you do this again you will be punished.” The next frame of the cartoon shows what the dog hears: “Ginger blah, blah, blah, blah, Ginger, blah, blah, blah, blah.”

Those who give commencement addresses must surely feel like Ginger’s owner; their words recede into background noise. People don’t attend to hear a speech; they come to get the degree and get out of there. I don’t remember a word that was spoken to me and my fellow graduates when any of my degrees were conferred.

One of the recurring themes of graduation speakers is to remind the graduates that calling the ceremony a “commencement exercise” is not just a meaningless phrase. Few graduates realize that on graduation day they are commencing an unending commencement. School, whether high school or college, is an artificial environment. When you enroll in school there are clear-cut requirements you have to satisfy in order to graduate. There are also clear-cut means of evaluation of your progress (grades, passing, failing). That, I think, is what is most artificial about school!

Where else in life are the objectives so clearly defined? Where else can you know at such fixed and predictable intervals whether you are failing or gaining mastery? School is the last time someone tells you without contradiction that you have learned and accomplished all that was required of you. Real life doesn’t give grades or hand out diplomas to indicate you’ve finished your work. That’s why I think few graduates understand what is meant by “commencement.”

Life is about commencement. It is a series of fresh starts and continued efforts toward goals that always remain out there ahead of us. No one is going to give us grades or hand us diplomas or gold stars for becoming more mature, or for developing into people of greater integrity. No one will tell us that we have three semesters left before we become more loving and more sensitive in our relationships. We must continue to strive and to grow without a defined end in sight and without grades to measure how well we’re doing.

This season of Pentecost is like the season after graduation. It is the longest season of the church year and it is the hardest to define. Unlike Advent, Lent and Easter, it is not in direct reference to an event in the life of Christ. It is in reference to the ongoing life of the Church in which the Spirit discloses the unfolding purposes of God for the world. It is framed at the beginning by a commencement: the sending of the Spirit and the sending forth of the disciples in ministry. The anticipated end of this period is the end of history and dawning of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

What is required of graduates and all of us who live in this Spirit age is to commit ourselves to continual commencement and growth. We may not always see the fruit of our striving or the hoped-for growth in our character. In this life of commencement, we must concentrate on the process of growth and discovery. We are like explorers who sail off beyond sight of shore without any clear knowledge about how far away the destination might be. We may see land tomorrow or next year or a thousand years from now. Until then, we are called to continue to venture and strive, confident that it is the Breath of God that fills our sails and steers this vessel.

See you in church! – Pastor Lynn

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**Sunday,
 June 30**

**Summer
 Outdoor
 Worship
 begins!**

**9:30am in the
 Pavilion**

Note change in
 service time from
 prior years.



June Worship Participants

Altar Guild

Shirley Haberman,
Karen Cuddihy

Lay Readers

6/9 Larry Wightman
6/16 Doug Stormer
6/23 Debbie Zdrojewski
6/30 Perry Kaupa

Ushers

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

Coffee Fellowship will resume in September. Thank you to all coffee hour hosts.

And thank you to Eli & the children for your help during the Mother's Day celebration.

-LaDonna Painter

It's official...

On the afternoon of Sunday, June 2, 2019, Rev. Lynn R. Morgan will be installed as our pastor and teacher. Participants in the service include: Rev. Marna Pritchard, Rev. Ken Neal, Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams, and Brett Hammond. The Church Council and Search Committee will be represented.

A special reception will follow the service.



Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday Service of Word & Sacrament 4:00pm

This service is in the air conditioned Parlor in the Summer.

Until Sunday, June 23...

Sunday Worship - 10:30am

The last day of Children's Sunday School is Sunday, June 16.

Beginning Sunday, June 30...

Summer Worship - 9:30am

We move outdoors for summer worship in the pavilion. Note the time of worship has changed from prior years.



Sunday, June 9

Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday

Emily Rich will affirm her faith and be confirmed into the membership of St. Matthew's.

Sunday, June 16

Pulpit Exchange

Pastor Krista Ulrich, Pastoral Care Minister & Director of Faith Formation at Ebenezer UCC, will be our guest preacher on Sunday, June 16. Pastor Lynn will preach at Ebenezer.

Mother's Day at St. Matthew's

Thank you to LaDonna Painter and Eli Hamm for the beautiful Mother's Day presentation during the Mother's Day Sunday worship. I believe everyone, including the dads, had tears in their eyes. The children were also so attentive during the reading of the touching poem and did wonderfully handing out the gifts to all the moms. The compact mirrors are such a thoughtful gift to coordinate with the poem. Certainly every time we moms use the compact we'll be reminded of just how special our church family is.



The day was made even more special when Gary Burdick sang a lovely hymn he wrote about the Baby Jesus to compensate for no choir due to Norm taking ill. Truly, a most memorable Mother's Day. We are blessed!

Gail Burdick
Richard & Joan Dase
Nancy Jankowski
Alice Kadash



Karen Kaitanowski
Tom Kromer
Ken Kruszka
Marilyn Mergenhagen

If you would like prayers publicized here, please contact Pastor Lynn, 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.

Prayer Requests During Worship

You may write a prayer request to be spoken aloud by Pastor Lynn during that day's worship service. It will also be put in the bulletin the following week. You can find prayer cards in the pew. Put your request in the offering plate.

Happy Birthday!

- Marilynn Fenske 6/1
- Joann Ertel 6/2
- Aaron Ertel 6/3
- Andy Federmann 6/4
- Chris Wilson 6/5
- Joyce Kaupa 6/6
- Brian Snyder II 6/12
- Keith Kanaley 6/16
- Mike Meyers 6/17
- Gary Burdick 6/18
- Curt Pitcher 6/18
- Roger Corlett 6/27
- Shea Hamm 6/29
- Tammy Kruszka 6/30

Happy Anniversary!

Ken & Tammy Kruszka
June 10, 1989



Ken & Shirley Haberman
June 24, 1967

New Address: Larry & Rebecca Wightman, 4514 Clark Street, Hamburg



Much gratitude to the Cemetery Trust Committee for providing the beautiful plants to the women after worship again this year.

And many thanks to Marilyn Rich; Kurt, Vanessa and Devon Rich for coordinating the purchase and distribution of the plants.

This is a special tradition for which we are grateful.

-Joyce Corlett



2019 Church Directory: Copies are on the table in the Narthex.

Activity Group

On May 16th, Rev. Dick Hemann led a beautiful memorial program which honored six individuals who passed away since last May. A candle was lit for Thelma Bowers, Dick Jones, Jane Cotton, David Hector, Don Ruff and Maxine Helm.

Coming June 20th... **Summer Picnic**

Come celebrate another great year of Activity Group at the end-of-year potluck picnic at 12noon in the Fellowship Hall. Activity Group takes the summer off, but will resume the third week of September.



Spring

Clean Up

at St. Matthew's
on May 4.
Thank you for a
job well done!



DCC Day of Giving

Sunday, June 16



On Sunday, June 16, St. Matthew's will have a "Day of Giving" whereby any donations collected for Dunkirk will be matched by the Mission Committee and given to them to help with the cost of some critical, expensive projects at the camp.

The Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center is now 96 years old and is working to maintain 45 acres of property along with 34 buildings which host over 1000 campers, provide 9 weeks of day camp and many weekend retreats.

The founders did a terrific job engineering this facility as it remains basically sound as we approach 100 years old. That said, to maintain the buildings and grounds, we need to continue to make certain repairs. There are 5 cabins and part of the dining hall that are in critical need of roof replacement. This will help us protect our cabins and avoid structural damage. The footers supporting some of the cabins also need repair and some replacement. DCC is hoping churches and cabin sponsors will band together to raise \$30,000 to help achieve this goal.



For decades, members, friends and families of St. Matthew's have enjoyed family and youth camps; church picnics and outdoor worship. Our church has also financially supported DCC and have members who give of their time to work on occasional projects and sit on the Board.

Thank you for your continued support by donating on June 16th—**The DCC Day of Giving**. Pastor Krista Ulrich will be with us to talk about the mission and ministry of Dunkirk.

-Mission Committee: Jay Rich, Steve Jankowski, Alva Looze, Bob Velazquez, Michelle Kemp



DCC Annual Flea Market & Auction

Friday, June 7, 11am—7pm

Saturday, June 8, 8a-4pm

The DCC Auction will be held on Saturday in the Activity Center building from 9am until ?

Food & Drinks available * baked goods * crafts * antiques

Free parking—Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center, 3602 Lakeshore Drive, E. Dunkirk

Progressive Dinners

The Progressive Dinners are back and a great time for fellowship. Debbie Zdrojewski and Mary & Bill Hamm were our hosts. The meals were sprinkled with conversation and great food (and some card games at Mary & Bill's). We had to finally break up the card game or we would have still been playing!

A fun night for all and a special thank you to our dinner hosts.

I hope you can attend our next Progressive Dinner. Stay tuned for date.

-LaDonna Painter, Hospitality Committee



Big Month for Churches In Action!

Bibles for Haiti - Thank you for your generous support of Bibles for Haiti. St. Matthew's Church family members purchased approximately 55 bibles for the cause. Due to the political climate in Haiti currently, our CIA Mission team will not be able to travel to Haiti, but the monies for the bibles have been sent to Haiti in time for FML's graduation ceremony.



Spring Concert - On May 5th, musical groups from five local CIA member churches, including our very own St. Matthew's Praise Band (and Barbara Middaugh joined the Sparks Praise Band), participated in an afternoon concert. A free will offering was collected and just over \$1,000 was raised for CIA's local mission projects. Thanks to all who attended the event.

-Dawn Goetz, CIA Rep

Work Weekend

Painting & gardening at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy May 17 & 18.





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normwahl@gmail.com

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716-245-1692 (h)
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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)



Friends of Night People

June 5 & July 3

On the first Wednesday of every month, you can volunteer to bake desserts at home or serve the hot meal cooked at St. Matthew's and delivered to the mission site in the city.

The sign-up sheet is on the landing. Car pooling is available.

We collect travel size toiletries, children's books & seasonal clothing.

Pull-Tabs for Ronald McDonald House -

Please save your pull-tabs from aluminum beverage containers. They greatly benefit the good work of the Ronald McDonald house. There is a container for your donations on the table in the Mission room (classroom closest to the Fellowship Hall).

Food Pantry - We are still collecting nonperishable food items for the local food pantry in Blasdell, on the first Sunday of the month. We are need of drivers to deliver the food that first week. Please sign up on the Missions & Outreach bulletin board.

Meals on Wheels—Thank you for all the volunteers who delivered meals during the month of April. We will be doing it again in July.

Dunkirk Auxiliary - Thank you to everyone who donated to the Auxiliary by paying annual dues. Your support is appreciated.

Job Opening

David & Pamela Kaznica will be retiring at the end of July and the search for a new custodian has begun. If you or someone you know are interested in this part-time (20 hours/week) position, please contact Pastor Lynn.

April Stats

Average Attendance: 84

Giving:	General	Mission
Total Received:	\$15,956	\$300
Monthly Goal:	\$12,646	\$562

Monthly Money Minutes

-by Amy Jo Lauber, CFP®

-June-

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 1 Corinthians 16:2

See, even the Bible is telling you to save money, but how? Is saving money more difficult now or is it that there are many more ways to spend our money?

Setting money aside today will help you tomorrow, so don't let your today-self be greedy against your tomorrow-self. Having a "financial cushion," a "rainy day fund," or even an "opportunity fund" as a way of reducing your stress should an unexpected expense (or opportunity) arise. Think of it as a gift to your future self.



JUNE 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Worship & SS 10:30am</i>
2 <i>Worship & SS 10:30am Installation Service 2:00pm</i>	3	4	5 <i>AA 10:30am</i> Friends of Night People Outreach	6 Praise Band 6pm Choir 7pm OA 7:30pm	7	8 <i>Worship & SS 10:30am Quilter's Day (all day—FH)</i>
9 <i>Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday</i>  <i>Worship & SS 10:30am</i>	10	11 Church Council 7:00pm	12 <i>AA 10:30am</i>	13 Praise Band 6pm Choir 7pm OA 7:30pm	14	15 <i>Worship & SS 10:30am</i>
16 <i>Father's Day</i> <i>Worship & SS 10:30am DCC Day of Giving</i>	17	18 Mission Com. 7:00pm	19 <i>AA 10:30am</i>	20 Activity Group Summer Picnic 12noon (FH) OA 7:30pm	21	22 <i>Worship & SS 10:30am</i>
23 <i>Worship 10:30am Baptism of Philip Meyers</i>	24	25	26 <i>AA 10:30am</i>	27 OA 7:30pm	28	29 <i>Worship & SS 10:30am</i>
30 <i>Outdoor Worship Service 9:30am Pavilion</i> 						

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Our church building is fully accessible.

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