



St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

When the founders of our church chose St. Matthew as the name they wanted to permanently identify the congregation, I doubt very much that they chose it at random. Matthew was a tax collector and therefore unpopular in virtually all segments of society. It wasn't just that tax collectors performed a job on behalf of the oppressive Roman regime; tax collectors made their salary on the basis of collecting more than was owed. Tax collectors were (willing) participants in an unethical system and so were regarded as worse than the kind of thief who would take your wallet in a dark alley.

So, it is doubtful that our forebears picked Matthew because of his stellar reputation in his pre-disciple days. Why would they want to be identified with an outcast who made his living by stealing from his neighbors on behalf of an occupying enemy?

Maybe they realized that what they had in common with Matthew was that Jesus had called them to be disciples even though they didn't deserve his call. I'm not saying those German immigrants in the Hydraulics District were criminals, but that they knew Christ's invitation to be his disciples was an act of grace: it was a gift they hadn't earned. As strangers in a strange new land, perhaps they also felt like Matthew in that they weren't part of the 'in crowd.' They were not the elite of Buffalo in the middle of the 19th century.

I suspect that they might have reflected on the fact that although Jesus called Matthew while he was mired in treasonous sin, he didn't leave Matthew in that state. Jesus' call led to a change of heart and life in Matthew. Don't you suppose that they felt like Matthew? Hearing Christ's call resulted in a change in their lives for which they were grateful.

We inherited the name of our church and we're proud of it. Hey, it's even carved in stone in the front yard! Even though we didn't choose the name of Matthew, it conveys who we are. We are sinners who were chosen by Christ to experience a new life. He didn't call us because we were so holy and good, but because we were stuck in selfishness and sin, and he wanted to rescue us. And He is not done with us either; Christ continues to call us to greater faithfulness and love.



Prayer (from the Book of Common Prayer):

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the witness of your apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of your Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Jeff Cotton; Jane Duewiger; Robin Federmann; Paul Hayes;
John & Karen Kaitanowski; Ron Larson; Jean Roth; Helen & Marvin Wilson
Jane Duewiger and Jean Roth are currently in rehab at Elderwood at Hamburg.



Happy Birthday! Karen Schneider (10/3); Shirley Haberman (10/4); Linda Velazquez (10/5); Eli Hamm (10/7); Emma Rich (10/8); Chris Goetz (10/14); Cindy Rich (10/15); Joyce Corlett (10/16); Jay Rich III (10/22); LaDonna Painter (10/28)

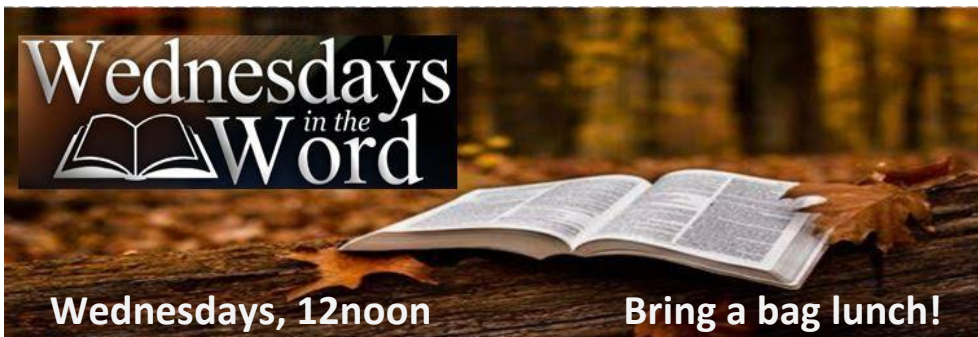
Happy Anniversary!

Doug & Beth Stormer (10/10/1987) * David & Karen Cuddihy (10/10/1992)
Roger & Joyce Corlett (10/13/1989) * Bob & Linda Velazquez (10/18/1986)



Bringing Communion to You

Now that Pastor Lynn is vaccinated, he is able to visit and bring Communion to all those who are unable to attend worship. If you (or a loved one) are interested, please speak with the pastor. He is looking forward to being with you and offering the sacrament.



Bag Lunch Bible Study

will resume on October 6. In the meantime, you might want to prepare by reading through the book of Romans. (It's only 16 chapters!)

Don't forget to bring your bible and lunch!

Your Best Life

Truly, God is good to the upright, to those who are pure in heart.

But as for me, my feet had nearly slipped; I had almost tripped and fallen;

Because I envied the proud and saw the prosperity of the wicked:

For they suffer no pain, and their bodies are sleek and sound. (Psalm 73:1-4)

These verses present a compact, clear-eyed portrayal of a faith-filled person who is struggling with the problem of envy. In particular, the Psalmist has a resentful envy of those who have plenty of health and wealth and happiness even though they are not good people and do not revere God.

Envy is a temptation, even for people of faith – people who trust in God's goodness and care. We can forget that God's care for us is not measured by our health or wealth or status.

Much of our consumer economy is driven by envy. Advertisers lure us to covet the possessions and the lifestyle of the 'sleek and sound' actors who portray a vision of the good life. This good life, we are assured, can be ours if only we buy what they are selling. It's not just advertising either.

Facebook and Instagram are often platforms for inspiring comparison and envy of neighbors near and far. Social media often magnifies our worst tendencies, stores them in our pockets, and puts them at our fingertips.

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Envy is destructive because it creates resentment of those who have what we want, and because it makes us blind to the blessings we have. When we look at others and wish we were living their lives we are, in effect, despising our own lives.

Envy is an insult to God. If a thankful heart is the essential attribute of someone who really trusts in God, then envy is its opposite. Envy comes from a sense that our lives are not good enough, that we are not okay as we are – not desirable, not loveable.

At the heart of the Christian faith is the trust that we are loved, that God's yearning desire for us broke the bounds of heaven to chase us as far as the grave. If you trust that you are enough for God to seek and find you just as you are, you won't waste your soul's energy craving to be someone else.

Prayer: *How could I envy someone else's life? This life is the one where you have sought me and found me and claimed me as your own. What was I thinking? I don't want to live someone else's life; I want to live mine more fully! Amen.*

St. Matthew's New Sign Dedication



On September 12, the worship service concluded with the dedication of the new church sign.

The congregation gathered in the front yard for the service of dedication.

Bill Hamm, the Council President, thanked the members of the Council who have been instrumental in advancing the cause of a new church sign. In particular, he thanked LaDonna Painter and Gail Burdick for their efforts.



Special thanks were extended to Tom and Lisa Koch, who donated the sign. Through their company, Stone Art Memorials, they fabricated and installed the new granite sign on footings laid by Bill Hamm. Work continues to finish the installation. Kurt Rich and Devon Asboth have been at work on the new landscaping and Tom Chmielowiec will be installing new lighting for the sign.

September's Chicken BBQ a Success!!



Hello,

First, I would like to thank everyone who helped make our Chicken BBQ a success and a "Sell Out". Another day with great weather but again like the last time it was windy. I would like to thank our set-up crew: Devon & Bill, also Dave and Ben Asboth, Steve, and Mike. They made sure the tents were all weighted down to make sure we didn't end up on McKinley and then it would have truly been a "Drive Thru". Thanks to our set up and cleanup crew.

We enjoyed seeing our members come thru to enjoy the Chicken BBQ and support our fundraiser. We even had a lady come thru that had German relatives that were founding members of the original St. Matthew's church. Another lady bought dinners and delivered them to the Hamburg police department. Then "Grub Hub Pastor" a.k.a. Lynn delivered Rev. Hemann's dinners for his 30 friends and he enjoyed his time with Rev. Hemann and got to meet Rev. Hemann's 30 friends.



We did "Sell Out" with 150 dinners and made a profit of \$640.20. We have already purchased \$100.00 worth of undies and socks for the CIA's Undie Sunday program and will make a donation to Ten Lives, and we'll be paying one of St. Matthew's utility bills for the month. Our committee will be meeting to discuss other groups to make donations, too.

Thanks again to all the volunteers: Brenda, Beth, Sandy, Marilyn, Steve & Nancy, David & Pamela. Thanks to Michelle for printing flyers, tickets, and publicizing the event.

Thanks,

LaDonna Painter

Fundraising Committee: Marilyn Rich, Steve & Nancy Jankowski

Thank you for your continued generous support of the day-to-day operations and ministries of St. Matthew's.

Your financial support for St. Matthew's is needed. The disruption of the pandemic has been hard on our budget and so, if you can, please make a gift to support the ministry of St. Matthew's. You can send your donations by mail, or by using the online bill paying utilities from your bank, or by giving online at St. Matthew's website.

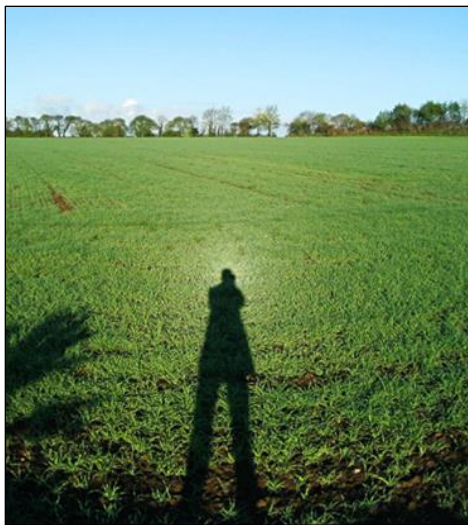


Help children who face long-term hospitalizations and their families. We will deliver your donations of pull can tabs to the Ronald McDonald house where they will be recycled and turned into cash. Container is in the room near Fellowship Hall.

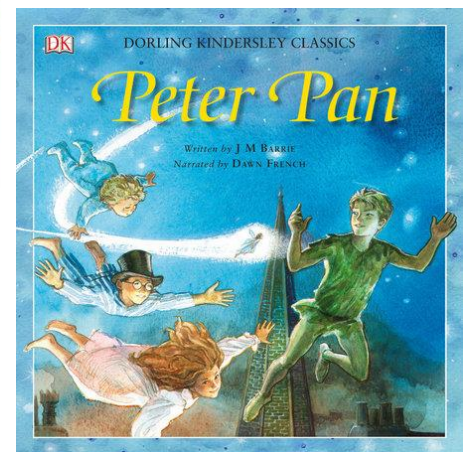
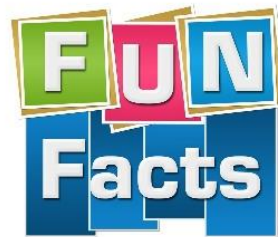
Support those experiencing food insecurities and/or in need of essential items. We will deliver your donations to #FeedHamburg (Iris Housing Complex, Sowles Road). Suggested items: applesauce, peanut butter, muffin mix, hot cereal, jelly, syrup, juice, jello, paper towels, napkins, tissues. Collection bins are in the room near the Fellowship Hall.

Give thanks - and money - to a local mission. Fill your Thanks Offering boxes and bring them to church on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 21. Your coins (and dollars and checks marked 'Thanks offering') will be given to a local mission chosen by the Mission Committee. Boxes are on a table outside the pavilion on Sundays and in the wall rack (next to the table) in the Narthex.

If you have any of these things and cannot bring them to church, call the office and we'll arrange a pick-up.



On a dewy morning, if you look at your shadow in the grass, the dew drops shine light back into your eyes, creating a halo called a heiligschein (German for halo).



There's a chance the copyright of J.M. Barrie's "Peter Pan" will never expire. In 1929, he gifted his rights to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, which have benefited the organization ever since. As an organization, there's no natural life to calculate the copyright period from.

On New Year's Day 1907, Theodore Roosevelt shook hands with 8,513 people while at the White House. He made sure to never have another New Year's Day celebration at the White House.



Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other simultaneously.

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

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