

St. Matthew's News

The Newsletter of
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
WWW.Sml-Lex.org

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church is a community of Christians whose purpose is to worship, witness, educate, support, and serve in response to God's Word, to make Jesus Christ known to all people.



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Official Notice of Congregational Meetings

Part A

November 4, 2018

Congregational Nomination for Church Council

Part B

November 21, 2018

Annual Meeting

Elections

Approval of Budget

Reports

A few words from Pastor Hawkins...

At lunch a few weeks ago, Assistant to the Bishop Ginny Aebischer, mentioned that there has been an uptick in disciples from synod congregations calling the Synod House to complain that their pastor(s) are preaching politics. Coincidentally a few weeks later a magazine I subscribe to featured this cover story: *Do politics belong in church?* I'm not surprised by the calls or the cover.

Last summer, I was a supply preacher one Sunday for a Synod congregation. In the sermon, I quoted an article that told the story of the challenges faced by German Lutheran immigrants to this country as far back as the 18th century. After worship, I was accused by a few for being political and thanked by others for sharing the article and asked how to access a copy.

What's a pastor to do? I recall a comment made to me at the end of my internship year in Jacksonville, FL. Ron was a very quiet man who always wore a stern look on his face that was hard to read. On one of my last Sundays there, he spoke words that I remember clearly: *I thought you would preach women. You didn't; you preached Christian.*

That, I firmly believe, is the only legitimate objective of each pastor who steps into a pulpit: **preach Christian**. And to "preach Christian" will run afoul, as I've said before, of **any** political party, organization, or system because the gospel of Jesus Christ runs counter. One pastor's comment in the magazine article put it this way: *Jesus resisted an oppressive empire [Rome] in ways both overt and subversive. His message wasn't inherently political, but it was a message that demanded people act out of a certain ethic.* In part, it's why the disciples had such trouble following Jesus; he taught and lived according to values different from them and now us. Jesus' ethic appears throughout scripture, but these two verses summarize it best: *Love your neighbor as yourself* and *...do to others as you would have them do to you.*

Every Christian's challenge is to recognize that God doesn't think or act like we do. God offers mercy and forgiveness to those we fear and despise. God loves us all, and not just those who look and think and sound like we do. Stanley Hauerwas, former Professor of Ethics at Duke University Divinity School,

offers this challenge: *Christians must again learn how to reframe issues in a manner that makes clear that the politics of Jesus is different.* Jesus' command to love one another puts us at odds with the powers-that-be who have other ideas about how we should do unto others.

From the beginning, Christians have lived according to a set of values and priorities contrary to earthly realms, and Christians have been clashing head on with kingdoms and empires, princes and principalities ever since. History has recorded the stories: persecution and/or execution by the Roman empire, the 17th century Japanese empire, Nazi Germany, the now-defunct Soviet Union, and present-day China and North Korea to name a few.

What's a pastor to do? Preach Christian. Not partisan, but Christian. Teach congregations to identify the ethic Jesus lived and taught as well as how to discern practical implications for daily living as a baptized child of God. Jesus' values can be uncomfortably different from our own, *a word sharper than a two-edged sword and thoughts [that] are not our thoughts* as scripture says.

What's a Christian to do? Wallow in scripture as a teacher once said. Participate in scripture study. Pray for the wisdom to discern God's will from one's personal will. Engage in civil conversation with others: Christians, non-Christians, pastors, politicians, and pundits. Ask questions. Work at understanding another's point of view. Listen. Really listen.

See you in church,

Pastor Karen



December 2 Advent begins

December 2 Adult Appreciation Luncheon

December 16 Children's Christmas program and Christmas cantata

December 24 Christmas Eve service at 6:00pm



MONTH OF NOVEMBER

LAY ASSISTANT

4- Miranda Cox
11- Ronald Norris
18- Doug Whittle
25- Cheryl McCarthy

NURSERY

4- Sandra Page and Allison Taylor
11- Kaye and Kristi Steele
18- Delores and McKayla Lowman
25- Jan Lowman and Jessica Cason

ACOLYTE

4- Madisyn Moorer
11- Jane Yarbrough
18- Logan Cason
25- Jacob Smith

CRUCIFER

4-Kylie Steele

ALTAR FLOWERS

4- Bruce and Ann Smith
11-Gates Family
18- Hicks Family
25-Doug and Beth Whittle

GREETERS

4- Ann McCartha
11- Dorcas Dooley
18- Rachel Lowman
25- Linda Singley

USHERS

Jimmy McCartha, Head Usher
Howard McCartha
Charles Smith
Melvin Keisler

ALTAR GUILD

Cheryl McCarthy
Leigh Ann Wicker

OFFERING COUNTERS

4- Charles Norris and Karen Smith
11- Helen and Larry Smith
18- Jeff and Delores Lowman
25- Doug and Beth Whittle



We pray for our church disciples who are ill, recuperating, or homebound.

Roy & Olivia Whittle, Lydia Lindler, Nettie Bell Alewine, Brice McCartha, Larry McCartha, Taylor Dorward, Russell Smith, Bobby Counts, Ann McCartha,

We pray for extended church family and friends:

Martin & Nina Watts, Annie Wannamaker, Pam McCracken, Emit Taylor, Jerry and Betty Steele, Shannon Brinton, James Jumper, Russ Anderson, Danny and Sandi Moore, Bonnie Harmon, Anthony Clamp, John Derrick, Jeff Page, Hampton Schulz, Saylor Robinson

We pray for all who serve in our armed forces

Gus Monaco, Jacob Robertson, Dallas Moses, Douglas Vance, Amy Storrs, Megan Asbill, DJ Hoover and Matt Livingston, Clarke Stocker

To add names to the prayer list, contact the church office at 803-957-9345. Names will remain on the list for one month. If you desire a name to remain on the list for another month or if a name needs to be removed, please contact the office.

Our member of the month looks forward to receiving your cards and letters, drop a note to *Lydia Lindler* 172 Persimmon Lane, Lexington SC 29072

thank
you!

Thank you to all for the visits, cards, thoughts and prayers during my recent surgery and hospitalization. It means so much to have your love, support, and prayers!

Ann McCartha



Trash Pickup is Saturday November 17, 2018 at 8:30am

John Singley Memorial Country Fried Steak

Saturday, November 17th 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

\$10 per plate

Dine in or carry out

See one of our Lutheran Men to purchase a ticket!!

Deadline November 11, 2018

November 18, 2018 - LMM Meeting at 7:45 am

Cooks are Jessie Lowman and Howard McCartha



The WELCA meeting for month of November will be held on Sunday, November 18, during the Sunday School hour.

Youth

November 16, 2018, 6:30pm – 9:30pm We will be making ornaments for our Adult Appreciation lunch on December 2. Pizza and movies are also on the agenda.

BUDGET REPORT

Year to date revenue as of 10/10/2018

Need to date - \$128,137.24

Received to date - \$115,536.74

Shortage \$12,600.50 short

LICS - \$240.00

Children in Need - \$845.00

Family in Need - \$400.00

Cemetery - \$945.00

Checking account balance - \$53,300.18



Mission Lexington needs our help! Please bring the items below each Sunday in November.

4- Rice and rice products

11- Spaghetti and tomato sauce

18- Breakfast food

25- Pork and Beans and canned fruit



All articles for the monthly newsletters should be e-mailed to the Church office, jan@sml-lex.org or you may submit a copy (rough draft) that can be typed into the newsletter, no later than the **15th of each month.** Thank You for your help.



- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1- Glenda Derrick | 18- Abby Whittle |
| 2- Sam Grainger | 18- Ravyn Cason |
| 2- Jeanette Hayes | 19- Crystal Morehouse |
| 2- Dalton Steele | 19- Harry Keefer |
| 3- Stephanie Desjarlais | 22- Gale McCartha |
| 3- Orry Smith | 23- Eddie Roof |
| 5- Debbie Steele | 26- Judy Downs |
| 7- Jamie Shumpert | 26- Ashley Black |
| 8- Michael Cason | 28- Linda Keisler |
| 8- Allison Desjarlais | 28- Jessica Blackburn |
| 9- Patricia S. Browning | 29- Barbara Keisler |
| 12- Charles E. Smith | 29- Stacy Aldsworth |
| 16- Shawn Dorward | 29- Jason King |
| 17- Tedi Keisler | 30- Donna Yarbrough |
| 17- Logan Cason | |

Please let Jan know if there are changes to birthday list



- 1- James & Jeanette Hayes
- 3- John & Amanda Keisler
- 6- Bruce & Ann Smith
- 16- Sherill & Marjorie Asbill
- 26- Phillip & Cheryl McCarthy

Please let Jan know if there are changes to anniversary list.

October Council Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Congregation Council met Sunday, October 14, after worship due to John Derrick Ordination.

- Received copies of the 2013 and 2016 ELCA Church wide Assembly amendments to the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations and heard the process by which the amendments need to be added to the St. Matthew's Constitution and By-laws. Council members will come prepared at the December meeting to discuss and approve presenting the mandatory amendments to the congregations.
- Approved a motion to schedule a special congregation meeting for a Sunday in January 2019 for the congregation to ratify the amendments thereby bringing the St. Matthew's Constitution and By-laws into compliance with the ELCA Model Constitution.
- Heard that Doug Whittle will recruit from the youth of the church two willing to serve on Congregation Council for 2019.
- Approved a 2019 Spending Plan to be presented for review at the Congregation Meeting – Part A on Sunday, November 4, following worship.





Join us for an inspiring evening and delectable desserts,
benefitting...LaVie Pregnancy Care Center.

Featuring Gian Paul Gonzalez, New York Giants
Chaplain

Gian Paul is widely recognized for inspiring the New York Giants to their 2012 Super Bowl victory with the phrase, "All In". His inspirational talks have made him an internationally renowned speaker for the NBA, NFL, English Premier League and Fortune 500 organizations. His amazing story directly connects to the mission of LaVie Pregnancy Care Center.

Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018, 7:00 pm
The Harvest Church
4865 Sunset Blvd.
Lexington, SC 29072
\$10 per ticket

Tickets available at Eventbrite.com (all in for life) or at LaVie –
996-4673

Community
Thanksgiving
Worship



*Grace Lutheran Church
Tuesday, November 20st
7 PM*

*401 Main Street Gilbert, SC 29054
The Rev. John Stirewalt of St. John's
Lutheran Church will be preaching this
year!*

*Join us for a community worship to give
thanks for all our blessing!*





Our congregation will once again fill the Children's Christmas Stockings for the Salvation Army. Stockings and instructions will be in the narthex for pick-up. Please return filled stockings **by December 1**. Please also take a green sheet for instructions and ideas.

Please state specific gender (male, female, or unisex) and age group on stocking top.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Singley at 359-2366. Thanks for your help for this project.



Stocking Stuff Suggestions

Infant -Age 2

Small Stuffed Animals, Dolls, Baby Care Products, Teething Rings, Bottle, Rattles, Balls, Toys That Cannot Be Swallowed, Diapers, Etc.

Age 3-4

Books, Bubbles, Crayons, Color Books, Small Toys, Stuffed Animals, Cars, Trucks, Dolls, Hats, Gloves, Etc.

Age 5-7

Stuffed Animals, Toys, Crayons, Color Books, Small Books, Bubbles, Puzzles, Pencils, Pens, Rulers, Notepads, Jewelry, Handheld Games, Puzzles, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Bath Accessories, Combs, Brushes, Hats, Gloves, Etc.

Age 8-10

Pencils, Pens, Rulers, Notepads, Jewelry, Handheld Games, Puzzles, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Bubble Bath, Combs, Brushes, Hats, Gloves, Watches, Cologne, Perfume, Wallets, Etc.

Age 11-14

Pencils, Pens, Rulers, Notepads, Jewelry, Handheld Games, Puzzles, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Hair Care Products, Make-up, Hats, Gloves, Watches, Cologne, Perfume, Wallets, Cameras, Small Radios, Etc.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)



Martin Luther was eight years old when Christopher Columbus set sail from Europe and landed in the Western Hemisphere. Luther was a young monk and priest when Michaelangelo was painting the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A few years later, he was a junior faculty member at a new university in small-town Germany, intently studying the Scriptures, “captivated with an extraordinary ardor for understanding Paul in the Epistle to the Romans.”

In those days Luther was tormented by the demand for righteousness before God. “I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God.” Then, in the midst of that struggle with God, the message of the Scriptures became clear, like a long-shut door opening wide. When he realized that a “merciful God justifies us by faith ... I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates.”

What Luther discovered is the freedom of Christians trusting God’s mercy in Christ. As he later wrote, “Faith is God’s work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. This faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. Faith is a living, daring

confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake their lives on it a thousand times.”

This discovery set Luther’s life on a new course —both his own life and his public service as a preacher and teacher. When a church-endorsed sales team came to the Wittenberg area in October, 1517, Luther was concerned that the promotion and sale of indulgences undermined the promise of God’s unreserved mercy in Jesus and the faith that trusts that promise. His *95 Theses* or *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* became the first of a life-long stream of books, sermons, letters, essays, even hymns in which he expressed his confidence in this life-giving promise from God, the Gospel, and its liberating implications for all of life in church and society.



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

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Pastor Karen Hawkins – 252-1327

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