

# St. Matthew's News

The Newsletter of  
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
[WWW.Sml-Lex.org](http://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.



As we begin a new school year, we invite you to get involved in a Sunday School Class.

Classes for all aged kids and adults!!

Join us each Sunday morning at 9:30 am

## **From the Interim Pastor...**

Last month I spoke of the nature of interim ministry. It's different in some ways than a pastor called long-term to a congregation. Originally, I shared this with the Congregation Council the first time we met, and now I share it with everyone.

### **Basic Tasks of the Interim Pastor: Neither a placeholder nor a magician**

- A. Examine the history of the congregation and work through the transition that usually follows the departure of a pastor.
  - a. Grief work
- B. Seek to confirm and identify current issues facing the congregation and develop ways of dealing with them.
  - a. Conflict
  - b. Discipleship rather than membership
  - c. Change of question: Where is God instead of who is God?
  - d. No longer developing multi-year strategic plans
- C. Review and/or begin to develop a vision or plan for the congregation's mission.
  - a. Assessment of current congregational leadership structure
  - b. Assessment of current ministries of the congregation
  - c. Staffing-
  - d. Three questions:
    - i. What ministries continue to have energy?
    - ii. What ministries do disciples no longer have energy for?
    - iii. Where do we sense God is leading this congregation?
- D. Examine the congregation's relationship and involvement with synod, mission district, churchwide units, and identify resources that may be available for ministry.
  - a. Examples: ELCA and Synod website resources, Mission Investment Fund, WELCA, LMM, LCY, LSC, Synod Christian Education Network
- E. Prepare for the arrival of the new pastor.
  - a. Prayer for the call committee and the candidate
  - b. Property issues

- c. Develop a plan to introduce the new pastor to the community
- d. Schedule for interim's departure and new pastor's arrival
- F. Align the congregation in accordance with the constitutions and bylaws of the ELCA, the South Carolina Synod, and update the congregation's constitution as needed.
- G. Pastoral acts
- H. Sources: ELCA website                      Center for  
Congregational Health

Tidsworth, Mark, *Shift: Three Big Moves for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church*  
 Tickle, Phyllis, *The Great Emergence*  
 Butler Bass, Diana, *Grounded*

See You in Church

Pastor Karen



**Mark your calendar** for our Homecoming Service on  
 Sunday, October 7, 2018.

Begin inviting friends and family early!!

**WE WILL HAVE** *A Spirit-Led Time Of Renewal*

Congregational event here at St. Matthew's with discussion led by the Office of the Bishop. Its purpose is for the Office of the Bishop and St. Matthew's congregation to gather around scripture and to examine our sense of God's presence amid our mission. We will discover together how God is at work within St. Matthews by answering questions about our ministry – our hope for the future, what we can or need to let go, and something new in which we might want to engage. We will also discuss the call process. The date is Sunday October 21, 2018, with a covered dish meal.



## MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

### LAY ASSISTANT

2- Ronald Norris  
9- Doug Whittle  
16- Cheryl McCarthy  
23- Ann Smith  
30- Jessie Lowman

### ACOLYTE

2- Jacob Smith  
9- Jane Yarbrough  
16- Chance Cason  
23- Logan Cason  
30- Madison Moorer

### ALTAR FLOWERS

2- Kathy Trock  
9- Allison Taylor  
16-  
23-  
30- Gale McCartha

### USHERS

Doug Whittle, Head Usher  
Beth Whittle  
Megan Whittle  
Brit Buzhardt

### OFFERING COUNTERS

2- Doug and Beth Whittle  
9- Jan and Jessie Lowman  
16- Lisa Buzhardt and Tammy Moorer  
23- Charles Norris and Karen Smith  
30- Helen and Larry Smith

### NURSERY

2- Delores and McKayla  
9- Jan and Jessica  
16- Tammy and Sheila  
23- Rachel and Kylie  
30- Lisa and Tammy

### CRUCIFER

2- Sarah Smith

### GREETERS

2- Lois Roof  
9- Joey Keisler  
16- Dottie Steele  
23- Charles Norris  
30- Kaye Steele

### ALTAR GUILD

Ann Smith  
Helen Smith



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

Roy & Olivia Whittle, Lydia Lindler, Nettie Bell Alewine, Brice McCartha, Larry McCartha, Charles Norris, Taylor Dorward, Doug Whittle, Russell Smith, Harvey Keisler, Bobby Counts

**Extended church family and friends:**

Martin & Nina Watts, Annie Wannamaker, Billy and Danny Mayse, Diane Caughman, Pam McCracken, Emit Taylor, Jerry and Betty Steele, Shannon Brinton,

**We pray for all who serve in our armed forces**

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

*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 *Russell Smith 7009 Platt Springs Road Lexington, SC 29073*



We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Harvey and Jean Keisler and Pam and Phil Stocker with the death of their daughter/sister, Connie Wooten.



**Please** let Jan know if your address or telephone number has changed, so that she can make changes for the directory. Also we would like your email address if you have one you would like to share. Church Secretary Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Please let Jan Lowman know if she can be of service to you. [jan@sml-lex.org](mailto:jan@sml-lex.org)

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 support and prayers!

Charles Norris

*Thank You* to all who donated school supplies. I am sure that they be put to good use by the children of Gilbert Primary School.



**MEN'S GROUP**

**September 16, 2018 - LMM Meeting at 7:45 am**

Barry Steele and Raymond Steele are Cooks



The WELCA meeting for this month is on September 17, 2016, at 7:00. Bring a friend!

# BUDGET REPORT

Year to date revenue as of 8/20/2018

Need to date - \$111,280.89

Received to date - \$96,150.74

Shortage \$15,130.15 short

Children in Need - \$845.00

Cemetery - \$910.00

LICS - \$240.00

Family in Need \$300.00

Check book balance - \$46,190.64



We collect food for the Lexington Mission Food Pantry every Sunday. Below is a list of foods for this month:

- 2- Canned/Dry Soup
- 9- Rice/Rice Products
- 16- Tomatoes/Spaghetti Sauce
- 23- Breakfast Foods
- 30- Pork&Beans/Canned Fruit



*God's Gifts Equip  
Us for Ministry*

## Lutherans Serving God through Global Health Ministries

### Future Hope by Kim Dickey

I had the pleasure of meeting a young man named Aimé this past year. He was friendly and upbeat, the choir director at Bevokatra Lutheran Church and a nursing student at SEFAM, the Lutheran School of Nursing in Madagascar. To get home from school, Aimé travels almost 60 miles by bus over poor roads and then walk for two days before reaching his destination. He is in his third and final year at SEFAM, where he is committed to earning his nursing certificate, despite the poverty that makes it impossible for his family to support him fully.

Aimé's mother gave birth to eight children but only her four sons have survived. Two of his older sisters died in childbirth – a heartbreaking, preventable loss. Motivated by his sisters' deaths and inspired by his faith, Aimé hopes to serve as a nurse in rural Madagascar.

Aimé is one of eleven SEFAM students seeking scholarship assistance from Global Health Ministries this year. Each is asked to pay at least a portion of the cost to attend school. GHM has committed to provide scholarship assistance for these students, as well as for students at Aira Midwifery and Nursing School in Ethiopia, and health workers in Tanzania. GHM believes that all people should have access to healthcare and indeed, health itself. But they don't, and a shortage of trained health workers compromises health and jeopardizes lives in Madagascar, Ethiopia, Tanzania and many other developing countries.

Gifts to Global Health Ministries' Education Fund help address this gap. A GHM scholarship of \$330 will assure Aimé of his hope for the future. That is the average amount needed for each GHM-supported SEFAM student to attend nursing school this year. \$1,000 can provide a Tanzanian physician with specialized training. And just \$50 helps train a village health worker in El Salvador or Nigeria. Your support matters – thank you!

*GHM is an independent Lutheran ministry enhancing the health care programs of Lutheran Churches in other countries. Contributions may be sent to GMH, 7831 Hickory Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-2500. This article appeared in the August-September 2018 newsletter and is printed with permission from GHM. For more information, see [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org).*





- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1- Allison Roof        | 12- Jeffery Langdon        |
| 1- Chloe' Piszcz       | 12- Todd Langdon           |
| 2- Virginia Leaphart   | 13- Shawn Keisler          |
| 3- Marvin Smith        | 13- Christopher Downs      |
| 3- Dean Watson         | 14- Doug Whittle           |
| 3- Taylor Dorward      | 16- Kenneth Steele         |
| 3- Ainsley Piszcz      | 16- Kayla Reeves           |
| 4- William Rivers, Jr. | 17- Tammy Kyzer            |
| 4- Anthony Keisler     | 18- Brian Kyzer            |
| 5- Arabella Hanna      | 18- Mark Dillard           |
| 6- John Derrick        | 18- Michael Dillard        |
| 6- Harold Pollard      | 19- Harold Lowman          |
| 6- Christy Craps       | 21- Clem Day               |
| 6- Chandler Heywood    | 23- Theresa Cox            |
| 7- Dotti Steele        | 23- Mason Richmond         |
| 8- Blake Reeves        | 24- Blake Ellis            |
| 9- Harry Watson        | 25- Craig Keisler          |
| 9- Beverly J. Smith    | 26- Jessie Lowman Jr.      |
| 9- Elizabeth Hayes     | 27- Luther F. McCartha III |
| 10- Ansley Noel Gunter | 29- Lois Roof              |
| 11- Delores Lowman     | 29- Gibson Smith           |
| 11- Molly Taylor       | 30- Michael Smith          |
| 12- Ann Amirh          | 30- Vernon Lowman          |

**Please let Jan know if there are changes to birthday list**



- 2- Orvis and Polly Keisler
- 2- Kevin and Christy Craps
- 7- Ronnie and Beverly P. Smith
- 9- Anthony and Cindy Keisler
- 21- Johnny and Leigh Anne Wicker
- 24- John and Suzan Gruber
- 25- Jamie and Stacy Aldsworth

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



We remember with great sadness those whose lives were taken on September 11, 2001.



**Grateful for Grandparents**

**GRANDPARENTS DAY September 9, 2018**

## **SC SYNOD FAST FACTS**

### **I Didn't Know That!**

In the South Carolina Synod, we seek to respond to God's love by loving him and serving the people he has created. There are ministries for – and with – all ages, not only in the state of South Carolina, but in many parts of the globe.

The South Carolina Synod is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

### **Quick Facts and Figures:**

- ✓ 4.7 million people live within the synod territory
- ✓ 52,000 baptized Lutherans in the South Carolina Synod
- ✓ 154 congregations and worshipping communities – Find a congregation!
- ✓ Three Companion Synods: Lutheran Churches in Japan, Tanzania and Colombia
- ✓ South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers in Leesville and the Isle of Palms
- ✓ Latino mission congregations: Cristo Rey in West Columbia and Nuestro Salvador in Greenville
- ✓ Active ministry organizations for all ages: College, Men, Women, Young Adult and Youth
- ✓ One of the seven seminaries of the ELCA – Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia
- ✓ ELCA-affiliated college: Newberry College in Newberry.

# **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**

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