

Connections



St. Matthew Lutheran Church – Connecting Faith With Life!

CALENDAR of EVENTS

SAT., JUNE 17

- 10am-12pm Concord Room
Reserved/Al-Anon Mtg.
5:00 pm Worship
Pastor Bob at Continuing Education
& Vacation until July 5

SUN., JUNE 18
FATHER'S DAY

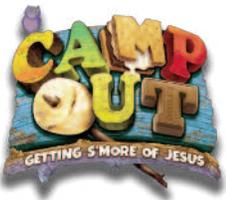


Happy
**FATHER'S
DAY**

- 9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Coffee Fellowship
Pastor Maggie & Youth at
Confirmation Camp this week

MON., JUNE 19

- 8:30 am Morning Prayer Group 
9:00 am Pastors' Text Study



"Getting S'more of Jesus"

Vacation Bible School
at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
8:00-11:30am
Monday through Friday

TUES., JUNE 20

- 10:00 pm Men's Coffee
at
Lincoln Square 

FRI., JUNE 23

- 9:00 am July Insight
Newsletter Deadline
Youth Group Guests
from Minnesota Overnight

SAT., JUNE 24

- 10am-12pm Concord Room
Reserved/Al-Anon Mtg.
5:00 pm Worship
Youth Group Guests
from Wisconsin Overnight

SUN., JUNE 25

- 9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Coffee Fellowship

Monica's family didn't attend church very often when she was young. But when they did, Monica noticed the women sat in the back while the men served in leadership positions in the front. As a child, she was relieved when the family stopped attending worship.

While at college, Monica started to attend Sunday worship with her friends. They found a Lutheran church near the college campus. Over time, she became more involved, asking lots of questions about theology. Finally she admitted to her pastor her sense of call to serve as an ordained minister. The pastor, the church family, and her friends heartily endorsed that calling.

Her family at home was less than enthused about Monica's career choice. Her parents believed she was planning to go to seminary for attention or to find a husband. The entire family turned against her, announcing they would disown her if she pursued becoming a pastor. This made no sense to Monica. Her family rarely attended worship.

It is not easy to have strangers turn against you because of your faith, but it even worse when it is your family. One of the commandments is to honor parents. It gets confusing to imagine parents rejecting their child due to the child's decision to follow Jesus.

Jesus expects rejection. He also expects his disciples to be rejected. No wonder the disciples became anxious and were filled with fear. Keep in mind, Jesus doesn't restrict this rejection to disciples of the first century. Instead, Jesus prepares disciples throughout the centuries to be rejected.

Have no fear. Prayerfully ponder the words of Martin Luther in his hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God":

Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away.
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

Prayer

*Jesus, give me courage to endure rejection,
pick up my cross, and follow you. Amen.*



Prayer Requests

Msgr. Greg Ketchum, friend of Vickie Hart
 Kristi Daly,
 daughter-in-law of Judy & Leonard Wilson
 Andrew Rogers, friend of Jill Quisenberry
 Laurie Padjen, friend of the Deck family
 Specialist Sean Splittstoesser,
 grandson of Ruby & Dan Splittstoesser
 Brody Welshofer, friend of Danielle Deck
 Amy Cole and Liam Snow,

daughter & grandson
 of Susan & Claude Cole
 Julie, colleague of Sarah Loftus
 Nic Brandon and family,
 friends of the Daly family

Donna Gehrt, aunt of Jill Daly
 Chris Galvin, friend of Morgan Johnson
 Macy Slade Tester,

friend of Mel & Liz Schwartz
 Rita, sister of Diane Durbin
 Terry Green & family,
 friends of John & Peg Warriner

Michael & Cheryl, friends of Chris Bedford
 Vickie Fitzsimmons,
 sister-in-law of Shirley Shaw

Zack Ballard,
 friend of Shirley Shaw's granddaughter
 John & Leota Erickson,

friends of Betsy Barringer

Sharon Hedrick
 Isabella Gonzalez
 Rita Vanier
 Mandi Gilliland
 Carolyn Adams
 Ted Sandwell
 Sharon Isaksen
 Hervin Buhr

Remember our shut-ins:

Vivian Larson
 Leona Saathoff

John Gantz
 Muryl Ohms
 Judi Smith
 Suzanne Ross
 Danielle Deck
 Bruce Carroll
 Don Saupe

Elaine Ebeling

In loving memory of ~

Janie Wienke,

sister-in-law of
 Elaine & Rudy Ebeling

Please include her family & friends
 in your special thoughts & prayers.

*May God welcome her
 into the kingdom of heaven.*

*Please note: Names on the list for prayers will
 be posted for one month unless otherwise
 requested. Please contact the church office with
 any updates or extensions. Thank you.*

STAFF OF ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

PHONE: 367-1189 www.stmatthewurbana.org

Pastor	Robert J. Rasmus
Associate Pastor	Maggie Falenschek
Office Manager	Gayla Pllum
Sunday School Superintendent	Ann Rasmus
Nursery	Ruby Splittstoesser
Parish Nurses	Aziza Awate, Kathie Pound, and Beth Riddle

Connections Deadline: Submit announcements in writing to the church office or by e-mail to gayla.stm@stmatthewurbana.org no later than 9:00 a.m. Wednesday. Thank you!

Welcome!

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church
is a fellowship of Christian believers
called to: grow in Christ,
share the Gospel, serve God's people.*

Do come again to
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
where you are always welcome.

Worship Services

Saturday, 5:00 pm

A relaxed & informal worship held in the Christ Chapel.

Sunday, 9:30 am

(May 21 through early September 2017)

Spirited traditional worship that focuses on participation through the liturgy, the great hymns of the Church.

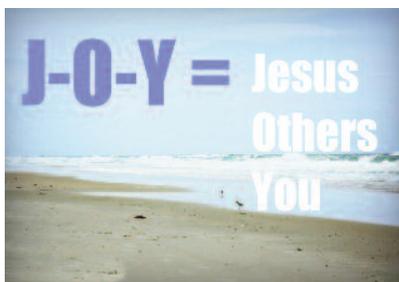
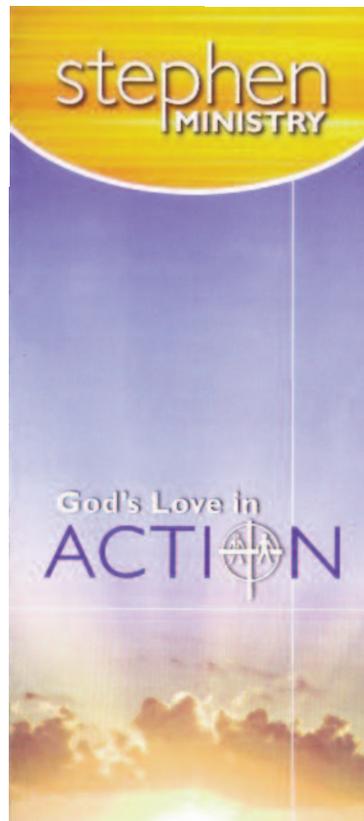


Free
indeed.

Stephen Ministry Has Grown

Beginning in June there will be six Stephen Ministers. Jennifer Carter, Jack Frost and Sarah Jackson have completed the Stephen Ministry training and are available to meet with a Care Receiver. They join Stephanie Alumbaugh, Debbie Huff and Peg Warriner along with the Stephen Ministry Leader Mike Krumwiede.

Our congregation is very fortunate to have this program. Jesus called them to this life changing journey. He was there every step of the way to equip and empower them to love others as He has loved each one of them. Jesus will be there at every caring visit, while listening to a care receiver's story, and in prayer. He is a Stephen Minister's companion, guide, strength, and inspiration. Joy is Jesus' gift to all who follow him in servanthood. **J**-esus, **O**-thers, **Y**-ou — this is the **JOY** of a Stephen Minister.



Jen, Jack and Sarah, thank you for your hard work and dedication to become a Stephen Minister. The St Matthew family will benefit from your service.

If you are interested in knowing more about Stephen Ministry please contact Pastor Bob, Pastor Maggie, or Mike Krumwiede for more information.

ALTAR FLOWERS

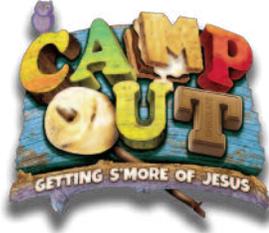
The flowers on the altar this weekend are in celebration and in memory of all our dads, fathers, grandpas and special men in the lives of our STM families. Happy Father's Day!

Help make our altar beautiful! Celebrate a birthday, anniversary, someone's life or just because. The sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the narthex. There are still many open dates throughout this year.



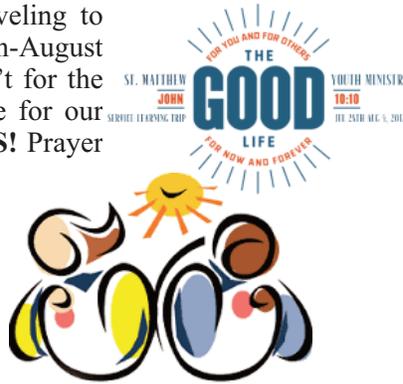
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

This year we are teaming up with Good Shepherd and Grace Lutheran to provide an awesome day camp for grades K-5. "Getting S'more of Jesus" will take place at Good Shepherd in Champaign June 19th-23rd, from 8:00-11:30am. You can even register on Monday! See Pr. Maggie if you have questions!



SERVICE-LEARNING TRIP: PRAYER PARTNERS NEEDED!

Fourteen students and five adults will be traveling to South Dakota for a week of service, July 28th-August 4th! This trip wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the generosity of our congregation. As we prepare for our trip, we are looking for **PRAYER PARTNERS!** Prayer partners will be matched up with a student or adult leader and given their prayer requests for the trip. It really helps participants to know that someone is praying just for them, especially when the trip gets tough and tiredness sets in. You can sign up to be a prayer partner on the youth bulletin board near the church offices, or contact Pr. Maggie.



SUMMER MUSIC

It's that time of year again when any and all of you are invited to share your gifts of music during our worship services. Our 9:30am Single Summer Sunday Services begin near the end of May, and there is room on the calendar from June 4 through September 4 for many pieces of music from our members. Sing a solo, play your trombone, get a small or large group together, and let Nancy Schneider (nancyschneider@hotmail.com) know you're interested.



TAKE JESUS WITH YOU AS YOU TRAVEL!

Summer is a time for many families to take vacation, meaning that many of you may be away from your church family for several weeks. Don't fear, you can take us with you!

This year, we are inviting individuals and families to take Flat Jesus with as you travel this summer (near or far!). Cut and Color flat Jesus and take a picture with him as you adventure. Send your picture to the office so we can connect with you and see where Flat Jesus as traversed!



A printout of Flat Jesus is included with this weekend's issue of Connections. The office will be watching for you & flat Jesus! Share your pictures on Facebook or email them to info@stmatthewurbana.org. Safe travels! ☺

MEN'S COFFEE TUESDAY THIS WEEK!

JOIN US FOR A SECOND CUP!

Our Men's Coffee group has decided to meet twice a month! All available STM men are invited to gather for a cup of coffee & conversation on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 20th at 10:00am in the Lincoln Square food court area. Men of all ages are welcome & encouraged to join our discussions.



LADIES... LET'S PLAY BUNCO

Play a fast paced game, win great prizes, and have a lot of fun. Please bring a snack to share and your drink of choice. The next BUNCO Night will be Thursday, June 29th starting at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. No need to sign up... everyone is welcome. We have a great time! Join the fun & bring a friend!!!



"LET'S DO LUNCH" LADIES LUNCHEON

Join us on the second Friday of each month at 11:30 am at a different restaurant each month. No age limit, no jobs to do, no colored hats to wear, nothing to study, strictly social & fun. Come when you can whatever months you can.

The next lunch will be held Friday, July 14th at Olive Garden off North Neil St. in Champaign. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you forget to sign up... come anyway! Women of all ages are welcome!



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY!

Our Food Pantry provides a week's worth of meals to families within the community on a regular basis. We're currently looking for *someone to coordinate our efforts*, as well as *individuals or teams of two to shop and deliver food* to a family once or twice a month. Contact Laura Podeschi (417-7188 or lepodeschi@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer.



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

We're once again collecting school supplies this summer for Urbana grade schools. Needs include number-two pencils, colored pencils, crayons, markers, dry-erase markers, Pink Pearl erasers, Fiskars scissors, rulers, glue sticks, solid-color two-pocket folders, wide-ruled single-subject notebooks, loose-leaf notebook paper, Kleenex, sandwich- and gallon-sized Ziploc bags, and headphones. Donations can be placed in the social ministry corner of the narthex.



RECREATIONAL DONATIONS NEEDED!

In late July, our own Steven Rhoads, son of Bruce & Kathy, will be traveling to Sierra Leone to volunteer in an orphanage and a medical center. While there, Steven plans to set up recreational programs and coordinate activities. To help Steven with this endeavor, we're looking for the following donations: basketballs, soccer balls, chalk, jump ropes, plastic cones, and soccer goal netting. All items can be placed in the social ministry corner of the narthex.



Make a Note!

Our Summer Sunday Service schedule has begun!

Worship will begin at 9:30am

We will follow this schedule through early September.

We will also have our 5:00 service on Saturday evening through the summer.



STM QUILTERS ARE TAKING A BREAK

Our work is done for the graduating High School Seniors. What a blessing it is to be able to present them with a memory quilt. We wish them good luck in their future endeavors. Now we are ready to take a break. We will return in September with new ideas and energy. See you in the Fall!



SUMMERTIME CHANGES TO OUR PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group knits shawls that are given to those who are experiencing difficult times in their lives, or to commemorate the gift of love, friendship & caring. Our group will not meet during the summer months. Knitters and/or crocheters are encouraged to continue making shawls at home. We will be giving beautiful shawls to those in need, but we will need our fellow STM members help. If you know of someone who would be comforted by a prayer shawl, please contact Joan Peterson (384-7415), Mary Anderson (896-2061), Pastor Maggie or the church office (367-1189). See you in September



RELIT – SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

ReLit, STM's reading group, is cancelling its June 17 meeting. We will regroup in the fall when our first meeting will be on Friday, September 15, at 7 p.m. Please send your suggestions for books for us to read and discuss to Nancy Schneider at nancyschneider@hotmail.com.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – “WE ARE ON SUMMER BREAK!”

Our Women's Bible Study group will not meet in June, July or August. You are welcome to pick up a copy of the *Gather* magazine Bible studies on the table across from the office to read during the summer months. We look forward to getting together in the fall. Plan to join us on September 29th for fellowship & coffee. Hope to see you then!



Thanks ladies, *Mary Anderson, Bible Study coordinator*

33RD ANNUAL WISCONSIN BIKE MS TOUR

Those two old St. Matt's pedalers, John Warriner and Matt Wallig will be riding in the 33rd annual Wisconsin Bike MS Tour, August 5 & 6 this year. They and the other 1400+ bikers raise



money for the National MS Society for the battle against this awful debilitating neurologic disease. They will ride 150 miles (70 miles one day, 80 miles the next) as part of these fundraising efforts. The Wisconsin tour is the “granddaddy” of them all” – the longest running tour of the 48 state MS bike tours and the one which has raised the most donations on an annual basis. The goal this year is \$1.5 million. It's ambitious but we bikers achieved that goal last year. So won't you please support us with a pledge or donation?

For those of you who wish to donate, please see the URL below, send John or Matt a check made out to the National MS Society (“Bike MS WI Chapter” in the memo line) or drop a donation off at the church office. Or, you can go on line: http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?px=2038901&pg=personal&fr_id=19765

THIS WILL JOHN'S 25TH BIKE TOUR on behalf of the MS Society, an anniversary to be celebrate, and Matt's 27th. As you can see, they're grizzled veterans and look forward every year to seeing the folks at the MS Society and their fellow veteran bikers. Your support is very much appreciated!”