Christian had spent hours and hours throwing a baseball to his son. In the beginning, his son had difficulty focusing on the ball. Instead, the boy would be distracted by butterflies and bugs. Christian had little hope his son would share his own love for the game. But around the age of twelve, Christian’s son entered a zone. He lived and breathed baseball. Christian beamed at his son’s first home run and later, at his first no-hitter. As people patted Christian on his back, he shook his head and pointed to his son.

Jesus prayed for glory, but only so that it would help his disciples to believe and know God. Glory came to Jesus, but not in a typical way. He did not hit a home run, win a lottery, or find success through popularity. His glory came through his crucifixion, followed by resurrection. Death on a cross is not the expected path towards glory. It is no wonder his disciples were baffled and overwhelmed by the events following his last supper with them.

The prayer by Jesus is not a selfish prayer, but provides an insight into the heart and wisdom of Jesus. He was able to see the big picture despite his approaching sacrificial death. This wisdom of Jesus is rooted in his connectedness to God.

Not all people gain in wisdom as they age. Wisdom does increase with the number of gray hairs on the head. Now and then, a child is described as wise beyond his or her years.

Throughout the season of Easter, Daily Discipleship has included the Serenity Prayer as part of its reflection. This prayer concludes with a petition for wisdom to make wise choices. We can be tempted after those things which give us glory. It is so easy to get caught up in ourselves and our path to self-glorification. Jesus in his prayer of John 17 reminds us to redirect our energy towards those things which gives God glory.

Prayer

Gracious God, give me wisdom to know the difference between those things which I cannot change and that worth investing energy to change. Guide me in ways to daily give you glory. Amen
Prayer Requests

Specialist Sean Splittstoesser, grandson of Ruby & Dan Splittstoesser
LCpl Nathan Brozak & 3rd Battalion India Company, son of Beth Koplnski
Rita, aunt of Cheryl Light-Shriner
Carmen, aunt of Cheryl Light-Shriner
Sharon, aunt of Cheryl Light-Shriner
John Light, father of Cheryl Light-Shriner
Pastor Tom Hillertz
Zewdi Habtes, mother of Aziza Awa
Jim Lyons, son-in-law of Gary & Cynthia Hedge
Connie, friend of Chris Bedford
Sandy, friend of Jill & Dan Dal
Marty Conatser, nephew of Liz Schwartz
Debbie Siegler & family, friends of Peg & John Warriner
Fred Gould, brother-in-law of Gary & June Volkening
Cavera family, friends of Garris Graham
Esther Kopmann, mother of Sandy Norris

Bill & Teryl Pigott, friends of Fred & Rene Wahlfeldt
Pastor Paul Swartz, former pastor of STM
Janet Bedford, mother-in-law of Chris Bedford
Don Knapp, brother of Peg Warriner
Michelle Curl, niece of Alan & Anna Tammen
Susan, friend of Garris Graham

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John Gantz Isabella Gonzalez
Danielle Deck Gerald & Judi Smith
Garris Graham Don Sauer
Brad Hedrick Rick Riddle
Dorothy Graham Pr. Ed Schneider
Tom Galyen Karen DeBauche
Margo Richardson Randy Alumbaugh
Pastor Bob Carolyn Kelly

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Remember our shut-ins:
Elaine Ebeling

Please keep all the members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in your prayers as we work together to find a new Pastor who is a good match with our congregation so we can continue working together to be God's hands in the world.

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.stmathewurbana.org
Office Manager Gayla Pellum
Nursery Ruby Splittstoesser & Emma Lacefield
Parish Nurses Aziza Awa, Kathie Pound, and Beth Riddle

Connections Deadline: Submit announcements in writing to the church office or by e-mail to gayla.stm@stmathewurbana.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 with Us

All services, meetings and gatherings are suspended until further notice.

There are videos of our services posted to YouTube weekly for you to pray with at home.

A Word from Stephen Ministry

During stressful times, such as these, you may find that you need a listening ear. Stephen Ministers are trained listeners who are here for you. We are trained to help you through difficult times with a focus on Christian love and kindness. While we cannot be there for you in person, we are here for you in spirit and are still available to talk. Today’s technology allows us to not only utilize phone conversations, but video chats as well. We shouldn’t forget emails and other methods of communication that will help us all to stay in touch with those we care for in our church community. Your Stephen Ministry team is here for you and we want you all to know that each and every one of our church family is in our prayers.

May we all remember that we are held in His loving embrace, now and always. May you all rest in the peace and love of God.

Office hours will vary during the pandemic. Please call ahead. Email is being checked offsite or you can reach Gayla at 217-369-9774.