

Connections



St. Matthew Lutheran Church – Connecting Faith With Life!

CALENDAR of EVENTS

SAT., SEPTEMBER 12

AND

SUN., SEPTEMBER 13

The YouTube video of our service for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost will post Saturday late afternoon or early evening.

MON., SEPTEMBER 14

8:30am Morning
Prayer
Group



Please email the church for information to join in

5:45pm Council Meeting
via Zoom

SAT., SEPTEMBER 19

AND

SUN., SEPTEMBER 20

The YouTube video of our service for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost will post Saturday late afternoon or early evening.

This is a difficult text to be read in congregations in the USA during the week of September 11 with all the memories of that horrific day. Does Jesus intend Christians to forgive the terrorists? How far-reaching is forgiveness?

On the one hand, it would be easy to dismiss this passage by restricting the implications to church members alone. After all, Peter qualified his question to Jesus. He didn't mention terrorists, malicious non-Christians, and others. Maybe forgiveness is just to be extended to other Christians.

On the other hand, we know that isn't true. The images of Jesus hanging on the cross, forgiving those who killed him as well as the thief on the cross are etched in our memories. Jesus forgives Jews and Gentiles, male and female, young and old. Jesus forgives them—and us.

Jesus doesn't just forgive us and draw a line. Instead, Jesus extends forgiveness to us again and again. He forgives us seventy-seven times and then, forgives us more. That number seventy-seven prods us. It is perfection times perfection. How can we forgive, but by the grace of God?

Forgiveness is not easy, especially when it comes to the deep wounds of life. It might be done quickly when someone steps on our toes or bumps into us in the hallway; but when we face significant hurt, all good reason stops. We freeze in the trenches of resentment, bitterness and revenge. The only thing is—we lose. Our energy is zapped. Hatred and resentment eat away at joy and life-giving activities. Thus, we become victimized again. There is no room or energy to follow Jesus Christ in mission and ministry.

Forgiveness does not happen with a snap of the fingers. Sometimes it takes a lifetime to forgive. Forgetting is not proof that forgiveness has or hasn't occurred. We can learn from the past wounds so they are not repeated. Yet, in forgiving, our life is changed. We are not the same. Our relationship with those we forgive, and with those who have forgiven us, is different.

One of the most challenging things for disciples of Jesus Christ is not just to receive forgiveness for ourselves, but also to extend forgiveness to others. By the grace of God, disciples of Jesus are forgiven and forgiving.

Prayer

Forgiving Christ, teach us to forgive. Amen



Specialist Sean Splittstoesser,
grandson of Ruby & Dan Splittstoesser
LCpl Nathan Brozak
& 3rd Battalion India Company,
son of Beth Kopinski

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 Awate
Jim Lyons,
son-in-law of Gary & Cynthia Hedge
Contie, friend of Chris Bedford
Sandy, friend of Jill & Durn Daly
Debbie Siegler & family,
friends of Peg & John Warriner
Fred Gould,
brother-in-law of Gary & June Volkering
Janet Bedford,
mother-in-law of Chris Bedford
Debbie Siegler,
friend of Peg & John Warriner

Norma Ward, aunt of Susan & Claude Cole

Joyce Wallace, sister of Tom Galyen
Tom, uncle of Cheryl Light-Shriner

John Gantz Isabella Gonzalez
Danielle Deck Gerald & Judi Smith
Garris Graham Don Saupe
Brad Hedrick Rick Riddle
Dorothy Graham Tom Galyen
Margo Richardson Randy Alumbaugh
Carolyn Kelly Dede Kern Brown

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.

In loving memory of...
Jim Lyons,
friend of the Barringer
and Coffin families
and
Rev. Gene Peisker,
former STM Pastor

*May God welcome them into the
kingdom of heaven and
grant peace and comfort to their
family and friends.*

Welcome!

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

Do worship again with St. Matthew Lutheran Church
where you are always welcome.

Worship with Us

All in-person 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

While God can use us as individuals to minister to others, we can do much more when we work together. Stephen Ministry is one of those get-it-done-together ministries. Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders work together to provide care, and through their ministry, God accomplishes wonderful things! Is God calling you to get together with this community of caregivers? Are you looking for comfort and support while you go through a difficult time? If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister or for more information, please do not hesitate to contact Gayla at the church office at (217) 369-9774 or Sarah Jackson at (217) 402-3919. May the Body of Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His Grace.

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!

The Worship Team is planning a



Drive-in, In-Person Worship Service with Communion

*Sunday, September 27th at 10:00am
at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Urbana
in the Parking Lot*

A time to safely see and be with each other.

Watch Connections and your email for more information.



Dear Alleluia Choir,
I have missed you so much!
While we can't be together in person, I will be sending you weekly videos so that you can keep singing at home. These videos will only be about 10 minutes long and they will be posted to the St. Matthew YouTube channel.
Take care! Paige



*Office hours will vary during the pandemic.
Gayla is generally in on
Tuesday & Friday mornings, but please call ahead.
Email is being checked offsite or
you can reach Gayla at 217-369-9774.*