



"Proclaiming Christ Crucified"
 Established 1892
 A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Our Mission

As a Lutheran community of faith, we continue our history of proclaiming Christ crucified through Word and Sacrament in joyful service to God and our neighbor.



The Special Congregation Meeting to vote on ELCA disaffiliation and selection of a new Lutheran denomination has been postponed indefinitely. Council will continue to monitor our state and synod guidelines for meetings and inform the congregation when we have a plan to conduct the meeting in a safe manor.

As a reminder, that in order to qualify to vote at the Special Congregation Meeting, when it is scheduled, you must be confirmed, have communed, and made a contribution of record in 2019 or 2020. *When giving cash for your contribution make sure your name is on the envelope in order to receive credit.*



The Church Council recently approved Waldkirch & Sanders to complete much needed structural repair work over the windows in the Choir Room. You probably noticed the scaffolding outside the adjacent wall in the playground. The project will cost approximately \$43,000. Even though we have the funds, the cost will significantly deplete our reserves. We therefore ask you to prayerfully consider making an additional donation payable to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, with "Choir Room" on the memo line, to help with the cost of the project.



A big thank you to Joan Wazybok and Christopher Wazybok for their help in cleaning up the playground for the opening of The Children's Schoolhouse!



Church Council Meeting

At their regular meeting, Council approved the following:

- Approved \$50 of August revenues be allocated to the Contingency Fund, representing 10% of July earnings.
- Christkindlmarkt Committee requested permission to hold their annual festival on church property on November 21, 2020 and to conduct a "left over sale" on November 22.
- A draft of the Social Media Policy is under review.
- Shaver Chiropractic & Natural Medicine donated 3 pieces of gym equipment. It has been reassembled and will be offered for use when guidelines are established.

Need a mask?



Christkindlmarkt has a supply of adult and child size face masks available on the table by the first side entrance. A suggested donation of \$5 per mask will be used as seed money for the 2020 event.



Both the new Altar Flower and Sunday School Sponsor sign-up sheets are posted in the Commons. If you are unable to make it to church at this time and would like to sign up, please contact Donna Capozio at 791-4582 or dcaozio@stmatthewsch.org as soon as possible to ensure you get the date(s) you would like.

	July 2020	
Operating Fund	Month	YTD
Revenues	32,580.98	275,279.50
Expenses	<u>32,126.65</u>	<u>271,267.95</u>
Income/(Loss)	454.33	4,011.55

Greetings from Pastor Sam

“Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel” (Matthew 8:10).

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our fall preaching series is entitled “Saints and Sinners,” which is derived from the Latin phrase “*simul iustus et peccator*” (simultaneously justified and sinful). It describes the internal battle against sin that begins with Holy Baptism and continues every day thereafter. We ought not to suppose that the old Adam or old Eve in us has a right to remain or that he or she cannot be drowned in the waters of Holy Baptism. Rather the children of God by living the Christian faith are built up into the likeness of the Servant Son of God. Yes, by the Holy Spirit’s work on and in us through the Word and Sacraments, we can and do grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

“Saints and Sinners” does not, then, like Adam’s proverbial fig leaves, give cover to the tendency to sin. As one of my old professors used to say, the original CYA began with Adam and Eve in the garden as they offered God their lame excuses for their choice to disobey. There was nothing in God’s very good creation that willy nilly forced them to choose. It was no “fall” into sin. It was, then, every bit a rebellion as the violence we have seen in certain urban streets. They lost Paradise, because rebellion is not and will not be tolerated in God’s holy presence.

The Bible verse in italics is the Lord Jesus’ response to that Roman centurion, who asked our Lord’s mercy for his servant. As a man of authority, he recognized the Lord Jesus’ authority over illness. Indeed, he recognized that the Lord Jesus only had to speak for the illness to obey. How did the centurion know this? The image of God was not obliterated at the rebellion. It was broken, but the evidence of its presence in the centurion is precisely in his recognition of the Lord Jesus’ authority. Doubtless, only later did the man come to a full understanding of this. In the moment of need and concern for his servant, he trusted Jesus. The Holy Spirit called him.

Now there is a difference between civil righteousness and spiritual righteousness. Living under the Law in daily life, we can be greatly admired by our neighbors as philanthropic and kind. Again, the image of God was not obliterated by the rebellion, and so the neighbor, whether religious, spiritual, or not, can do good works. In the recognition of the neighbor’s need, there is in every one with such awareness evidence of the image of God. We are created for service. The sinful nature is also known by the proverbial “quid pro quo.” You give me this, and I give that.

Spiritual righteousness can only be given by God. Martin Luther calls it “the happy exchange” (der froehliche Wechsel), where, in Holy Baptism, the Lord Jesus takes my sin and my death to His lonely cross and gives me freely His life and righteousness. Only in Jesus Christ can I be made spiritually righteous before God. The new creation begins with the Word, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” That new creation is built up by hearing the Word of God: “I forgive you all your sins.” That new creation is made stronger by hearing and receiving the Word of God: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Indeed, in the hearing, the reading, the marking, the learning, the inwardly digesting of God’s Word, that saint claimed through no merit or effort of my own grows in grace.

In this fortieth year since ordination to the holy ministry, I admit it is, by far, the strangest with all of the coronavirus craziness. Even if you are too terrified to come to the services of God’s house or to gather with your brothers and sisters to study God’s Word, that does not absolve you from daily drowning the old sinner in you that rebels against God’s Word. Sin remains sin, and God does not and will not wink at sin. He calls it what it always is: rebellion.

In Holy Baptism, you are a saint, a child of God by grace and mercy in Jesus Christ. Yes, you live in the state of North Carolina in these United States of America. You have, by nature, certain physical characteristics and particular relationships. You have, by choice, certain other roles in this life and certain preferences about where and with whom to live and work and how to vote. Sin permeates every cell in your body and whispers to you in every moment of every day. That sinner must be drowned daily through confession and repentance. You can resist sin with God’s help. You can, like that Roman centurion, recognize the Lord Jesus’ authority over your sin!

I love you,



Pr. Sam Zumwalt+

Gifts to Honor and Remember
August 2-23

IN MEMORY OF JANE BRUCE, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Laura Gray.

IN MEMORY OF DALE BLADE, a gift to Christian Education by Harry and Carol Comeskey.

IN MEMORY OF MORRIS JOHNSON, a gift to Christian Education by Harry and Carol Comeskey.



Our Christian sympathy is extended to...

Judy Benson, and family, on the death of her sister, Debby Young.

Brian and Laurie Tobin on the death of Laurie's father, John Pizzico.

The family of Jane Bruce.

The family of Arlene Robie.

Joanne Johnson, and family, on the death of her husband, Morris Johnson.

Karen Clark, and family, on the death of her father, Dale Blade.

Sheila and Jim Whitmeyer on the death of Sheila's uncle, Cecil Purser.

Lea Shipman, and family, on the death of her mother, Jerry Loftin.

MEMBERS:

Nancy Fauser	Pat Mahl	Joel Peterson	Helen Knoll
Alan Hunsberger	Jan Magnus	Dwight Crim	Arthur Moore
Denis Hall	Denise Benoit	Ruth Rice	Laura Gray
Regina Ryder	Ruth Smith	Al Birnstein	Jack and Marie Loflin
Keith Farmer	Barbara Keyl	Arthur Pease	Trevor Hornick
Donna Siegmund	Liz Newbery	Sue Miller	Vivian Alexander
Judy Benson	George Schwenzer	Jane Dove	Carol Comeskey
Alexandra Schwartz	Ed Ludacer	Judy Daniels	Patty Macino
Kenn Slocum	Charles Smith	Bill Baldwin	Lani Beuerman
Joanne Johnson	Elaine Mattess	Mike Thompson	Doris Ullman
Ken Manning	Walt Brehm	Janet Hall	
Harry Comeskey	Terry Miller	Fran Perry	

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS:

Amie Knauer	Viola Seip	Betsy Miller	Tracy Boandl
Ava Smith	Chris LaVoie	Russ Kuhn	Melvin Proctor
Albert Rossetti	Richard Truax	Dick Williams	Donna Franklin
Jerry Knoll	Sophia Pilcher	Jean Jarusinsky	Bishop Mayfield
Journey Heyer	Susan Strickland	Crosby James Asher	Jane Dumire
Stan Brunt, Sr.	Paul Rady	Mitzi Viola	Lynn Howell
Lisa Holgerson	Bessie King	Joyce LaSala	

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Bob Byrne	Margaret French	Jane McDougald	Doris Prillaman
Elsie Cates	Ruthann Getsinger	Wayne McDougald	
Frank Fauser	Jim Harshbarger	Virginia Parisek	



1	Connie Palmer	9	Wayne McDougald	17	Connor Mough
3	Dusty Pilcher	9	Jacob Harms	19	Nancy Magruder
3	Gilbert Alphin	10	Raewyn McCombs	20	Darlene Schucker
4	Carol Comeskey	11	Dennice Graef	20	Brent Labriola
5	Karen Ruefle	11	Jan Betts	21	Claire Houser
5	Megan Kline	11	Craig Hales	21	Logan Todd
5	Preston Gourville	11	Eric Pollard	22	Karin Cook
6	Irene Shea	11	Greg Stirrat	23	Betty LaFave
6	Caroline Shaver	11	Ronan Harrington	24	Linda Holway
7	Yvonne Jones	12	Dean Weber	25	Tyler Crouch
		15	Elaine Willow	26	J. Hollamon
		15	Samuel Mowrey	26	Carley Cumbo
		15	Caroline Todd	27	Pr. Joel Kettner
		16	Sheila Mallo	28	Judy Benson
		16	Alexandra Schwartz	29	Alex Monroe



3	Art & Jan Magnus	4	Pr. Sam & Laura Zumwalt	22	Terry & Joyce Crouch
3	Ron & Suzanne Asmus	5	Brian & Laurie Tobin	23	Dave & Diane Sundberg
4	Bill & Tracy Gourville	9	Keith & Cindy Harms	25	Alan & Maureen Richey
		9	Harry & Tanya Puckett	30	Kenn & Wanda Slocum
		16	Mike & Cindy Perretta	30	Ken & Gina Schiess
		17	Dave & Peggy Davis	30	Pr. Michael & Leslie Bergbower
		21	Jim & Sheila Whitmeyer		



Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Stephen Ministry—Part III

This month we conclude this series.

Where did it all start?

Stephen Ministry has been around since 1975, when Kenneth Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, began it to multiply the caregiving in his congregation in St. Louis, Missouri. We have had Stephen Ministry here at St. Matthew's Church since 1994, and are one of more than 10,000 Stephen Ministry congregations from more than 150 denominations. Stephen Ministries St. Louis, the organization behind this international ministry, is headquartered in Missouri.

How Can Someone Receive Care from a Stephen Minister?

Ana Maria Jackson and Jon Lindsay are our Stephen Leaders who coordinate referrals. If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to Ana Maria, Jon, or Pastor Sam. Any of our Stephen Ministers would also be happy to help you through the process. (If you want to talk about Stephen Ministry for someone else, make sure you get his or her permission first.)

How Much Does It Cost?

Stephen Ministry is a caregiving ministry available to our members and community free of charge.

How Can Someone Become a Stephen Minister?

Begin by talking to one of our Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers and they can tell you more. We have joined with other churches in the Wilmington area to train new Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers make a two-year commitment to train and serve.

What Does the Stephen Series Logo Mean?

The Stephen Series logo consists of a cross and circle together with a broken person and a whole person. The broken person behind the cross symbolizes the brokenness in our lives due to our sin and imperfections. The whole person stands in front of the cross because it is only through the cross of Jesus that we are made whole. The circle symbolizes both the wholeness we receive through Christ and God's unending love for us.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. - Hebrews 10:24



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Christkindlmarkt News

VOLUME 3

SEPTEMBER 2020

ISSUE 6

3rd Annual German Christmas Festival

Saturday, November 21, 2020  10 a.m to 5 p.m.

The safety and welfare of our members and guests is always first and foremost. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have greatly scaled back our event and will comply with all state and local laws, and the recommended CDC guidelines: mask-wearing, social distancing, and frequent handwashing. Please be assured that we are proceeding with our plans with the utmost care and caution, and we thank you for your support.

*It's hard to believe it is September already. Where did the year go?
Christmas will be here before we know it. Now is the time to act.*

Where we stand:

- * We have collected over \$9,000 towards our goal of \$34,000. Let's see if we can surprise ourselves. It's better to aim too high and miss the target than to aim too low and hit.
- * Our mini-fundraisers have netted results beyond our expectations. Over \$800 has been received from the mask sale and the re-usable travel diaper pads are going like hotcakes. You don't have to use them for babies. For \$15, they make great pads to sit on at the beach or outdoor concerts and can prevent seats from getting wet from damp bathing suits. If you wish to purchase one and donate it, we will deliver it to WIHN in your honor.
- * Paid sponsorships include ten members and two businesses, both at the Silver level. This is an excellent beginning but we need more! Please consider your most generous donation, especially if you know you will be unable to attend.

Our immediate need:

- * Get those sponsorships in. Approach those businesses which you frequent and ask if they would be willing to sponsor our event. Applications are in the Narthex by our chart and "Father Christmas".
- * **Look at the next page and let us know when and where you will be able to serve.** We have many tasks, several of which are before the day of the event. Please consider how you may be able to help. Mail it back to us "Attention: CKM team" or drop it off. Forms will also be available in the Narthex along with the other materials.

Event Structure:

The team has worked hard to put together an event which will be fun and safe for all. Since we typically get over 100 people coming into church over the weekend, we know there are many of you who feel comfortable coming out. At this point, our plan is to offer three options. Enjoy Christkindlmarkt YOUR way! These are NOT the complete details. They will be in the NEXT newsletter. You will have to stay tuned.

- A. Come on in and stroll around the vendor tables. Wear your mask and observe social distancing. We will count the number of attendees to avoid crowding. We hope to offer about 10 craft tables with items for sale as well as our German gifts and Baked goods. There will be no in-house dining but you can pick up a "to go meal", a pretzel, and perhaps a bottle of German beer or wine.
- B. Pre-order and Pre-paid Pick up (on November 21) is exactly what it sounds like. Keep a lookout for the menu and purchase options. This will be available October 1st on-line and in the Narthex. We will offer our menu and some other items for purchase ahead of time. If you want to ensure we have your selections, this is your best option.
- C. Drive through on November 21 and see what we have.

Christkindlmarkt 2020 ♦ Saturday, November 21, 2020 ♦ 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year, the Festival will be in the Nave, Narthex and McCombs Fellowship Hall.

TEAM MEMBERS:
Important! Please sign up too, so our list is complete.



Return completed forms to basket in Lobby, or mail to church ATTN: CKM

NAME: _____
PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

It would be VERY HELPFUL if you can give us an indication (√) of where you would like to work. You don't have to commit to a certain time frame yet just yet. We just want to know who is on board to help. Thank you!
We encourage our YOUTH to sign up too!

PRE-FESTIVAL

SET UP
Wednesday-Thursday-Friday Nov. 18-20

- ARRANGE TABLES AND DIVIDERS
- TAPE FLOORS (SOCIAL DISTANCING)
- SET UP TREES AND DECORATE
- PUT OUT "CHURCH TOUR" INFO
- HANG/INSTALL SIGNS AND BANNERS
- MOVE PIANO AND TABLES OUT OF MCCOMBS
- WILL ASSIST WHERE NEEDED

SHOPPING

- FOOD ITEMS
- ALCOHOL (BEER AND WINE)
- SODA AND WATER
- KITCHEN ITEMS (Styrofoam clamshells, plastic utensils, napkins, carry-out bags, etc.)
- GERMAN GIFT ITEMS

TAKE-DOWN
 In Nave and Narthex
Saturday Nov. 21 beginning at 5 p.m.
 In preparation for 6 p.m. Service

- TAKE DOWN "CHURCH TOUR" INFO
- REMOVE SIGNS IN NARTHREX
- WILL ASSIST WHERE NEEDED

FESTIVAL DAY: November 21
AM Shift: 8 to 1 PM Shift: 1-End

PARKING LOT

- TRAFFIC CONTROL

MAIN ENTRANCE

- ATTENDANT TO COUNT ATTENDEES
- ATTENDANT TO MONITOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICE

- ORDER TAKING
- FILLING BAGS
- SOFT PRETZELS
- BAKED GOODS
- RUNNERS
- OUTDOOR GRILLERS
- COOKERS

CASHIERS

- I HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH "SQUARE"
- I DON'T HAVE "SQUARE" EXPERIENCE, BUT WANT TO BE TRAINED
- FOOD AND BEVERAGE
- GERMAN GIFTS
- MEMBER CRAFTS
- BAKED GOODS

HOSPITALITY

- MONITOR SUPPLIES: MASKS, CLEANER, TOWELS, ETC.
- GOPHER, ERRAND RUNNER AS NEEDED

Covid-19 Updates

Although events were planned in advance of the current situation with Covid-19, please continue to check your emails from Pastor Sam and St. Matthew's, and/or Facebook for updates on all worship services, scheduled activities, and events. You may also check the calendar on our website (under the "News" tab) which will be updated as decisions are made.

**If you know of someone who does not have email or Facebook, please help us by passing the word along to them regarding updates and cancellations.*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Stephen Ministry	2 8:30 Men's Breakfast 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation Orientation 7:00 Adult Choir	3 9:00 Quilt Ministry	4	5 6:00 Eucharist
6 14th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	7 Labor Day Church Office closed 6:00 Evening Prayer	8 9:00 Counting Team 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Joyful Noise	9 8:30 Men's Breakfast 11:00 Finance Team 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	10 10:00 Crossways 9:00 Quilt Ministry 6:30 Church Council	11	12 6:00 Eucharist
13 15th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	14 9:00 Counting Team 11:00 Social Ministry 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer	15 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Stephen Ministry	16 8:30 Men's Breakfast 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	17 10:00 Crossways 9:00 Quilt Ministry	18	19 St. Matthew 9:00 New Member Orientation 6:00 Eucharist New members rec'd
20 St. Matthew New members rec'd 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	21 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 CKM Leaders	22 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Joyful Noise	23 8:30 Men's Breakfast 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	24 10:00 Crossways 9:00 Quilt Ministry	25	26 6:00 Eucharist
27 17th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	28 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer	29 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group	30 8:30 Men's Breakfast 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir			