



*Are you envious
because I am generous?*

MATTHEW 20:15

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office: 717-637-7101

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 20, 2020

10:45 a.m.



WELCOME! ARE YOU NEW? We are a group of people gathered together to make a difference. We seek to make a difference in ourselves, in our neighborhoods, and in our world. We are thankful that you are here today. Check out our website at www.stmattlutheran.org, where you can find out more about us and get connected into our community. **If you would like a call from one of the pastors, give a pastor or a parking attendant your name and phone number and a pastor will contact you, or call the church office, 717-637-7101, and leave a message for Pastor Kathy or Pastor David.**

WE LOVE having children in worship. Jesus said "let the little children come to me ... for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." We will have children's sermons on the third Sunday of each month.



Please tear off and put in the offering basket as you leave:

Names of everyone attending Sunday, 09 20 20, 10:45 a.m.:

Would you like to be added to our email list? Please list your name and email address:

Please list any prayer concerns you would like lifted up by the staff:

PRELUDE

Gather Us Together
(Eli Swope, Soloist)

Alstoll

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Faithful God,

Assisting Minister: have mercy on us.

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Pastor: God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God – No. 839*



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,



who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re-joice-es;
with ev-er joy-ful hearts and bless-ed peace to cheer us,
who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per-plexed,
with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants.
Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and
train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu-ia! Lord and Sav-ior: o-pen now your sav-ing word.
Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un-til our hearts are stirred.
Al-le-lu-ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16 *Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor M. David Kiel

MUSICAL OFFERING

People Need the Lord
(Eli Swope, Soloist)

Nelson/McHugh

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

Pastor: Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

Assisting Minister: I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

Each petition concludes, "*Lord, in your mercy,*" and the congregation responds, "***hear our prayer.***"

PEACE

Assisting Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

*(The congregation is invited to greet one another in your own cars
with the words "Peace be with you.")*

You may also honk your horn to greet others!

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

This Is My Father's World

No. 824

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve in Jesus' name.

All: Thanks be to God.

* * * * *

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –
Also #A-708989 One License.net

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Phone: 717-637-7101

General mailbox ext. 221

Email: info@stmattlutheran.org www.stmattlutheran.org

The Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext. 231

The Rev. M. David Kiel, Interim Associate Pastor, ext. 229

The Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Cong. Visitation Pastor

Deacon Jan M. Davis, Minister of Christian Education, ext. 232

Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music, ext. 235

Our warm thanks to all those assisting in our worship services this morning:

MusicianEli Swope, Soloist

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the glory of God and loving memory of Robert Wagner as we would have celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary on September 24, by his wife Florine; and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey C. Wierman and Naomi C. Wierman by their family; and in loving memory of Larry W. Aumen by his wife Rae and family; and in loving memory of Grover H. and Mildred B. Pascoe by Mike Zimmerman and family; and in loving memory of Robert F. Doll by the family; and in loving memory of Dorothy Savacool Crabbs in remembrance of her birthday on September 23 by Barb And Rich Worthington and their children Andy, Chris and Wendy.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton E. Cromer and Kathleen Cromer by the family; and in loving memory of Dorothy Savacool Crabbs in remembrance of her birthday on September 23 by Barb And Rich Worthington and their children Andy, Chris and Wendy.

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS for the week of September 20-27:

Sunday: Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday: James 4:11-16

Monday: Romans 16:1-16

Friday: Acts 13:32-41

Tuesday: Romans 16:17-20

Saturday: Mark 11:27-33

Wednesday: Matthew 18:1-5



DAILY DEVOTIONS CHANGES: The ministerial staff of St. Matthew is offering a daily devotion Monday through Friday, via the phone line. The devotion will change at approximately 9 a.m. All you have to do is call the church office at 717-637-7101. If it is after hours (between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.) simply follow the prompts to listen (Press 3 for the daily devotion.) If you call during office hours, tell the secretary you want to hear the daily devotion and they will connect you. It's as simple as that!

A Report from the COVID-19 Task Force

Did you know that we have a task force who meets about every 6 weeks to determine the best ways to move forward as we experience the impact of the coronavirus? Their deliberations provide wise guidance as we seek to be faithful to our mission and mindful of the safety of all who enter our buildings and participate in our ministries.

With the recommendation of the task force and approval of the council, St. Matthew is beginning indoor worship. We will have worship on Saturdays at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall and on Sundays at 10:45 in the Sanctuary. Please note the safety protocols for these worship services. Our Outdoor/Drive-In Worship will continue at 9:00 a.m. through September and into October.

Thank you to our COVID-19 Task Force Members: Steve Bell, Jan Davis, Doris Deitzel, Scott Fredericks, Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman, Pastor David Kiel, Jane Lawrence, Jack LeFevre, Judy Risk, Penny Rutters, Tom Schultz, Dirk Wildasin and Vicki Wildasin.

Guidelines for Returning to Indoor Worship

Masks will be required. Temperatures will be taken upon entering. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be asked to return home.

We ask that everyone practice social distancing (at least 6 feet, excluding households) when in the church building.

For those who are feeling ill, have compromised immune systems, or are at high risk, please continue to utilize our drive-in worship or on-line worship opportunities for your safety and the safety of others.

All hymnals, papers, etc. have been removed from the pew racks, and the cushions have been removed from the pews we are using.

Everyone will enter through the elevator lobby doors and porte-co-chere doors. No one should park in the porte-co-chere. The area needs to be accessible for emergency vehicles to enter and exit.

Bulletins, communion cups and Ziploc baggies (for empty communion cups) will be handed out as people enter.

Seating will be as directed by the Ushers with social distancing being practiced (one household unit per pew or 2 individuals.) Pews will be marked for seating, with two empty pews between the seated rows. **Please be considerate of the ushers as you are seated. We can only be indoors if everyone abides by the guidelines.**

Communion will be with the wafer and disposable communion cups in the pew. A Ziploc baggie will be supplied for disposal of the empty cups. A waste basket for the communion cup baggies will be placed at the exits.

There will be a basket at each entrance and exit for the offering.

The men's and women's bathrooms outside of Fellowship Hall will be available for use. Linda Kasic, our sexton, will be available to clean between uses.

Everyone will exit through the door they entered and as directed by the ushers. **The ushers will release everyone a row at a time.**

There will be no nursery care available.



A PRAYER CHAIN MEETING would be scheduled in October. Due to the Covid restrictions, they will not meet in person, but if you have any changes or updates for the prayer chain, please notify Gloria Koontz, 717-637-7434, by Sunday, September 27. Persons or situations added to the prayer chain are kept on the list for 3 months. At that time they are removed if there have been no calls asking to extend their stay on the list. Our pray-ers do like to hear about prayers answered so, please keep them updated as to the person/ situation. Thank you to all who assist in this ministry.



YOUTH in the 7th through 12th grade are moving to their school year schedule of meeting on the first and third Sunday of each month. Watch your REMIND texts for details about up-coming events. Please e-mail youth@stmattlutheran.org to be added to the text/e-mail lists.

OUR DRIVE-IN WORSHIP is planned to continue through September and early October at 9:00 a.m. We will also have worship in the nave at 10:45 a.m. This will, of course, depend on any changes in state safety regulations. If it is raining, we will cancel the Drive-In Worship service. A determination will be made by 7:00 a.m. and cancellation will be posted on Facebook and on our website and there will be a message on the office phone.

DISCIPLE TRAINING CAMP rolls into September in a whole new way! Many of our families enjoyed our "Lent in a Pizza Box" last spring, so we're going to have "Disciple Training Camp Kit" this fall. Each kit will contain the weekly activity sheets (age-appropriate), craft materials, craft ideas, prayers and more. The weekly Bible story will be told by one of our storytellers and will be available on the St. Matthew YouTube channel. Activities may be done at your pace at home. There will be lots of ideas for sharing faith as a family, too.



CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION AND COMMISSIONING is planned for this Sunday, September 20. Youth in the 7th through 9th grades are invited to the 9:00 Drive In Worship for a brief commissioning during the service. At 10:00, youth and families will meet to hear the details of our confirmation program. Ninth graders and their family will meet in the Upper Room with Pastor Kathy to talk about their Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) being planned for the fall. Seventh and eighth graders planning to participate in confirmation classes will meet in Fellowship Hall with Deacon Jan. In case of rain, we will do the commissioning during the 10:45 service.

CYBER WOMEN'S Zoom meeting will be on Monday, September 21, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. All women are invited to discuss this month's *Café* articles on the theme of "May We Use Our Voices." To participate in our discussion, please send your name, e-mail address and request to join to info@stmattlutheran.org or call the church office at 717-637-7101. You will then be e-mailed the Zoom link. Remember with Zoom, we'll be socially distanced so you don't have to wear a mask. Invite a friend!



Emmanuel
Matthew's Story of Jesus

**Weekly Bible Study Beginning Wednesday, September 16,
10-11:00 a.m. in person in Fellowship Hall
AND 7:00-8:00 p.m. by Zoom**

All are welcome to join this down to earth, back to the basics Bible study. The approach that we will take as we read the Gospel of Matthew is the following:

The Gospel of Matthew is a training manual for disciples of Jesus who want to understand and be prepared for Christian life within the believing community and Christian mission outside the community.

With this approach, we can appreciate both how this Gospel functioned in Matthew's own community and also, in a similar fashion, how it can serve as a discipleship manual for us today as well. (Thank you to Dr. Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Professor of Biblical Studies at United Lutheran Seminary, for the Bible Study resources.)

September 16 *Take Us to Your Leader—What is our **Identity** in relationship to our leader?*

The Birth and Baptism in Matthew 1:1-4:25

September 23 *Rock Solid Perfect—What is our **Message**?*

The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:1-7:29

September 30 *From Miracles to Mission—What is our **Mission**?*

Matthew 8-10

October 7 *Whose Side Are You On?—What is our **Calling**?*

Matthew 11-17

October 14 *New Community, Same Old World—What is our **Vision**?*

Matthew 18-23

October 21 *Sent with a Promise—What is our **Commission**?*

Matthew 24-28

Sign up by contacting Pastor Kathy at pastorkathy@stmatthlutheran.org or by calling 717-637-7101 ext. 231.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

¹But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Psalm 145:1-8

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

[not printed]

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.

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