

Lord, how often
should I forgive?

MATTHEW 18:21



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office: 717-637-7101

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2020

9:00 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 occasion through the summer.



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

Names of everyone attending Sunday, 09 13 20, at 9:00 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:

We hope you find these outdoor worship services meaningful. If you are concerned about your car battery, you can bring a battery operated radio and use that in your car. It will save your car battery! But also know, we have people on the premises with battery cables should the need arise.

If you leave your vehicle for any reason, please be considerate of others and wear a mask. Thank you!

+ Celebrating God's Love - Serving in Jesus' Name +

GATHERING MUSIC

I Sing Praises

MacAlmon

1. I sing prais - es to your name, O Lord, prais - es to your
2. I give glo - ry to your name, O Lord, glo - ry to your
name, O Lord, for your name is great and
name, O Lord, for your name is great and
great - ly to be praised; I sing prais - es to your
great - ly to be praised; I give glo - ry to your
name, O Lord, prais - es to your name, O
name, O Lord, glo - ry to your name, O
Lord, for your name is great and great - ly to be praised.
Lord, for your name is great and great - ly to be praised.

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,

All: 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 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise – No. 834*

Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;
 in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;
 most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see
 al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

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.

BLESSING OF FACE MASKS

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.
Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may
delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Pastor: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35 *When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

MUSICAL OFFERING

We Are All Children of the Lord
(Claire Fralic and Meredith Staub, Soloists)

Sleeth

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

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

All: **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!*

THE MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink. **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

On Our Way Rejoicing

No. 537

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;
Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;
Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,
who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.
Refrain
On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: 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*

A MEMORIAL SERVICE will be held for Paul Lockwood Fry, who passed away July 2, 2020, on Friday, September 18, here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Social distancing and masks will be required for anyone attending.

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:

Musicians Claire Fralic and Meredith Staub, Soloists

Emergency Person Linda Wheeler

Parking Attendants Jeremy Bucher, Jan Davis, Roland Kunde,
Tim Peck, Barb Rupp, Tom Shultz, Linda Wheeler

Worship Assistants Joan Belt, Ardis Kunde, Carolyn Markle, Gail Mummert

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Pamela M. Peck on her birthday of September 17, by Janice Peck and family; and in loving memory of Shawn Bollinger by his wife Sharon Bollinger; and in loving memory of my son Shawn Gilmore Bollinger by his mother Barbara Hearn Bollinger; and in loving memory of William and Patricia Little by Jeanne Little.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jeanette Utz's 102 birthday which she would have celebrated on September 13, by Diane and Larry Baublitz.

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS for the week of September 13-20:

Sunday: Matthew 18:21-35

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 13:1-4

Monday: Hebrews 11:23-29

Friday: 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Tuesday: Romans 14:13—15:2

Saturday: Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday: Mark 11:20-25



WITH DEEP GRATITUDE, we give thanks to all of you who are continuing to support the ongoing ministries of St. Matthew. Because of your offerings, our church is able to continue to generously serve the needs of others and share the message of God's love. The financial support has remained steady through the pandemic and it is not only appreciated but especially needed for those whose resources are diminished due to COVID-19.

An Invitation from Pastor Kathy:

Dear Members of St. Matthew:

On March 2nd, I began my ministry as your Lead Pastor. I was with you for one week-end of worship and then COVID-19 hit. Now, almost six months later, I need your help. I want us to become better acquainted as we have conversations together regarding our church. As a result, with the help of the Church Council and Mutual Ministry Committee, I am hosting *Listening Sessions*. We will meet together in groups of no more than twenty people for this important conversation. This is the time to come with your questions, thoughts and listening ears as we gather for these important conversations regarding our past, our future and how God is leading us forward. *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.....to give you a future with hope.* From Jeremiah 29:11.



To sign up for a gathering, call the church office at 717-637-7101 or e-mail info@stmatthlutheran.org to sign up for one the following times. Sessions will be held (socially distanced) in the Fellowship Hall or on Zoom. (The zoom link will be sent to you after you sign up.)

Monday, September 14, 7:00-8:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 17 1:00-2:15 by ZOOM



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 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.



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.

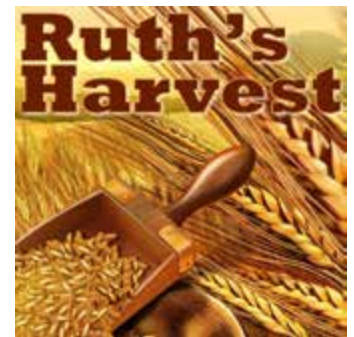
There will be a basket at each entrance and exit for the offering.


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 BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came out Saturday, August 29, to help move the Ruth's Harvest Pantry to St. Matthew. Not even the threatening weather deterred our dedicated crew. Everything went like clockwork thanks to the volunteers and the accommodating weather — not a drop of rain. The task was completed in one hour and the pantry is now safely housed at St. Matthew ready to welcome the packing crews who assemble the backpacks to feed elementary-age Hanover children in need of weekend food support. Thank you again to all the volunteers and to the Hanover Area Council of Churches which administers the program.



 **A BLESSING OF THE FACE MASKS** will take place at each of our weekend services. We are inviting all children and youth who are wearing their masks to school, along with everyone who must wear a mask for their work. Wear your most colorful or favorite mask and be blessed! We will have new masks for children and youth from preschool through 12th grade.

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. Unfortunately our Kits have been delayed, but we hope to have them next week!



CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION AND COMMISSIONING is planned for 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@stmatthlutheran.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!



CARING CUPBOARD!

Social Ministry Committee is creating a Caring Cupboard in conjunction with the annual ELCA “*God’s Work, Our Hands Day*” on Sept. 13, 2020. A Caring Cupboard is a small cabinet which will be placed somewhere on the St. Matthew grounds. It is basically a take one or leave one arrangement. If you want to donate food and/or paper goods to it, you may put it in the cupboard! If someone in the community (or in the church) needs some food and/or paper goods, they may take some from the cupboard! We are wondering if anyone has a cupboard they would be willing to donate - or if someone would be willing to build one (funded by Social Ministry Comm.) It would have to be sturdy, weatherproof & should have a clear window in the front.

Here are some examples of Caring Cupboards. Please contact Andrea Hersh (717-968-7094) if you have questions or have a cupboard that might work for this purpose. Thank you!





**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: Genesis 50:15-21

[not printed]

Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13**SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."