

The Bridge Builder

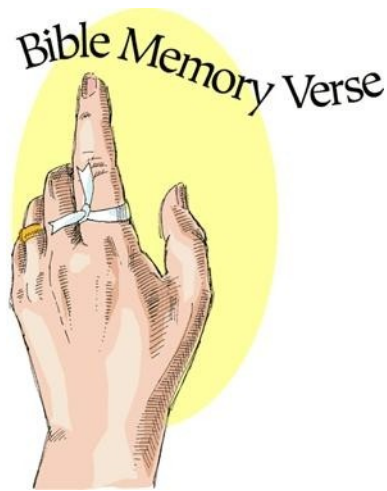
St. Matthew's Weekly News

JANUARY 5-6, 2019

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Verse for Memory

In 2019, we will be memorizing God's Word together. Most weeks we'll have one fairly simple verse to inscribe on our hearts, a verse that will stay with us for a time when it needs to be brought to mind. The verse for next week-end (January 12-13) is:



ISAIAH 43:1

"But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.'"

May the Lord bless you richly with this wonderful promise!

Spare Change Update!

Keep the small change coming! We have collected over \$60! The small, colorful box on the shelf in the narthex is available to accept your donations of spare change. All donations will go toward the renovation of St. Mathew's outdoor Nativity figures.

New Church Database in 2019

We will be working with Concordia Technology Solutions in January to convert our old church database over to the new online system, Church 360. This was necessary because our old database was bought out by a new company which forced us to either accept the new company's system or search for a new one. After trying out the new system, we were disappointed with its performance. So after a year, we are finally ready to make the move to another program. Please extend the office, financial secretary, and counting teams grace over the the next several months as we transition and train ourselves to use the database. In the meantime, you will continue to receive your weekly Bridge Builder and any other e-mails through the old system until it does dark. If you do not receive the weekly newsletter and would like to subscribe, simply contact the church office with your preferred e-mail address, and we will add you to the distribution list.

Grades 8-12—Let's Play Whirlyball!



Calling all 8th through 12th grade youth...
Save the date!

Sunday, January 20, 2019
1:00-2:00 PM

Let's play WHIRLYBALL!

Whirlyball is part basketball, part lacrosse, part bumper cars, all in one. It's a blast! Join the fun! Sign-up sheet will be in the narthex on Sunday.

Holy Baptism

Cole William Cronin, son of Scott Anthony and Amber Lee (nee-Leatherman) Cronin, born October 29, 2018, will be received into God's Kingdom through the washing of Holy Baptism during the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 6, 2019. His sponsors are Don Cronin and Dayna Smith. In celebration of his baptism, Cole will receive a baptism medallion from Thrivent Financial.

Lost and Found

Lost anything or left something behind at St. Matthew? Please check the Lost and Found box located in the mail room in January. Valuable items might also be kept in the church office. Please call the office if you are looking for something specific. Any unclaimed items will be thrown away in February. Thank you!

Hospitalization Notification

Going to or coming home from the hospital or an extended care facility? Please let the church office know immediately so that Pastor has the opportunity to minister to you. If you are unable to call yourself, please designate a family member or friend to make the call. We want to be there for you in your time of need!

March for Life

Join area Lutherans at the March for Life Chicago on January 13, 2019. LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison is among the featured speakers. Meet at Federal Plaza (50 West Adams Street, Chicago) at **1:55 pm** under the LOVE AFFIRMS LIFE and the EYES FOR LIFE banners. RIDE A BUS LEAVING FROM TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LISLE, 1101 Kimberly Way, Lisle, at 1:00 pm. FREE WILL DONATIONS will be received to cover the cost for the round-trip bus ride. Call Kris Blackwell at 630.234.1491 to reserve your seat. Space is limited. Call soon!

End of the Reverse Advent Calendar



The Board of Human Care and Outreach would like to thank all of you who have taken bags for the Reverse Advent Calendar! If you haven't returned your bag, we ask that you please bring it to the church this weekend, January 5/6. We would like to get all donations delivered during the week of January 6. If you were unable to participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar this Advent, all nonperishable food items, toiletries, and household cleaning supplies are always welcomed by the food pantry. We will accept your donations any time. Thank you for your wonderful generosity, most especially during this Christmas time!

LWML News



LWML will meet on Wednesday, January 30 at 12:30 pm. We will be planning the agenda for this new year, 2019. Come join us!

Pew Sisters

Pew Sisters will meet the First Monday (our new meeting time) - January 7th - at 7:00 in the parsonage. We will finish up our study of the Fruits of the Spirit talking about "Self-control."

Those celebrating birthdays. . .

Sebastian Erdman	Jan 1	Paul Butt	Jan 10	Jacob Elder	Jan 19
Thomas Rivera	Jan 1	Michael Herman	Jan 10	Kevin Earnest	Jan 20
Paris Ward	Jan 1	William Heyden, Jr.	Jan 10	Ernie Langheld	Jan 20
Maryann Krieg	Jan 4	Kristin Kupiec	Jan 11	Nick Obbish	Jan 20
Dori McCastland	Jan 4	Emily Metz	Jan 12	Natalie McCastland	Jan 22
Larry McClure	Jan 4	Scott Erdman	Jan 13	Jack Sullivan	Jan 22
Santos Ares	Jan 6	Deborah Kant	Jan 13	Karrie Altringer	Jan 23
Amanda Baldyga	Jan 6	Michael McCastland	Jan 13	Benjamin Hogan	Jan 23
Kathy Henrikson	Jan 6	Megan Duffy	Jan 14	Thomas Smith	Jan 23
John Bellisario	Jan 7	Maci Nickleski	Jan 14	Paul Bellisario	Jan 24
Ted Krieg	Jan 8	Holly Nona	Jan 15	Diana Grube	Jan 25
Katie Leffler	Jan 8	Michael Sullivan	Jan 15	Brandon Potaczek	Jan 26
Ryan Nolasco	Jan 8	Ashley Baldyga	Jan 16	Al Wend	Jan 27
Maureen Kolzow	Jan 9	Karen White	Jan 16	Meghan McClure	Jan 28
Grant Metz	Jan 9	Robert Boldt	Jan 19	Jessica Demitriu	Jan 29
Virginia Metz	Jan 9	Colin Elder	Jan 19	Alyssa Gallet	Jan 31

Those celebrating wedding anniversaries. . .

There are no January member wedding anniversaries.

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer devotional booklets for January through March, 2019 are now available in the narthex. If you paid for an annual subscription, or wish to subscribe for 2019, please pick up your copy as you enter church. A limited number of large print editions are also available. The cost of an annual subscription is \$5.00 for regular size copies and \$14.00 for the large print edition. Your payment by check, payable to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, or cash may be dropped in the collection basket and labeled "Portals of Prayer". Or you may drop your payment off at the Church Office.

Worship Assistants

Date	Time	Deacons	Ushers	Acolytes	Greeters	Altar Guild
1/5/19	5PM	Bob Klukas		Kole Graczyk	Sharon Crull	Lenore Duffy Karen White
		Michael Herman				
1/6/19	9AM	Mike Shackel	Ryan Eslinger	Isabel Eslinger	Bruce and Jo Ann	Sharon Crull Leanne Sloman
		Bruce Leatherman	Joe Cryer	Brett Eslinger	Leatherman	
1/12/19	5PM	Bob Klukas		Colin Crane	Kathy Henrikson	Sharon Crull Leanne Sloman
		Mark Herman				
1/13/19	9AM	Mike Shackel	Tenleigh Vedok	Emma Pharo	Ken/Nancy Kelly	
		Ron Kolzow	Ella Gudgel	Noah Pharo		

In Our Thoughts and Prayers This Month

Those who are sick, recovering, in the hospital, or have other needs... (* new entry to list)

Members: (S=Shut-in, M=Military)

The Alwes Family * Grace Laskowski (S)
 Norma Beavers (S) Murph Leffler (S)
 Char Counter (S) Jeannette Mueller (S)
 Wanda Grabys (S) Alice Oikle (S)
 Ernest Langheld (S) Elsie Schultz (S)
 Gladys Langheld S) Marilynn Smith (S)

Relatives and Friends:

The Ferry Family
 Rachel Meyer (Missionary)

Note: Our prayer list is starting fresh with the new year. If you would like to include a specific individual on the weekly prayer list in 2019, you may call the Church Office or fill out a prayer request card, located in the narthex, and place it in the offering plate or turn it in to the Church Office. If you need to extend someone's length beyond the first four weeks due to a long-term prayer situation, please contact the Church Office.

Lorma Alwes Asleep in Christ

Long-time St. Matthew member, *Lorma Alwes*, fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, December 25. A funeral service was conducted here at St. Matthew on Friday, December 28, 2018. The Reverend Paul Cwynar officiated. She was given a Christian burial at St. Matthew's Cemetery.

Prayer Corps

The St. Matthew Prayer Corps provides an opportunity to pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ in their time of need. Will you help? Contact the church office for more information or to join. 1 John 5:14: "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

Worship for Shut-Ins

Learn more about worship opportunities for shut-ins at website www.worshipforshutins.org, or call toll free 888-286-8002.

Missionary Updates

Please continue to lift up Lutheran missionaries Rachel Meyer and the Ferry family in your prayers in 2019 as they continue to serve the Lord in Uganda and Taiwan. The latest newsletters from both of them are posted in the back of the church. Thank you for your support!

Coffee And....

Plan to stay for "Coffee And. . ." this Sunday after worship service. A treats sign-up sheet is posted in the church basement Bible study room. Bake or buy a treat to share if you can. Or, just come and enjoy!



Offerings Received December 29-30, 2018

General Fund and Ministry Operations

Cemetery Fund	\$1,000.00
General Fund: Electronic Giving.....	\$5,295.00
General Fund	\$2,894.00
General Fund: Altar Flowers	\$15.00
General Fund: Building Repairs.....	\$300.00
General Fund: Christmas Envelope.....	\$255.00
General Fund: Midweek Advent	\$15.00
General Fund: Portals of Prayer.....	\$100.00

Other Dedicated Funds

Harvest Campaign	\$130.00
Missions: Electronic Giving (Recipient TBD by Board of Outreach)	\$125.00
Missions: Fourth Sunday (Recipient TBD by Board of Outreach)	\$10.00

Total Offerings for Ministry Operations.....	\$9,874.00
Weekly Amount Needed for Budgeted Ministry Operations	\$5,210.00

Offerings Received for 2018 Ministry Operations

Amount Needed for Budgeted Ministry Operations (approx. \$5,210/wk).....	\$270,920.00
Amount Received for Ministry Operations.....	\$267,931.91

Gifts and Memorials

In Loving Memory of my Husband, Bob Sloman, ~ By Gen and Family

In Loving Memory of My Husband, Art Wanderer, on His Birthday ~ By Ruth and Family

Totals In Worship

Saturday, December 29, 2018	5:00 pm.....	24
Sunday, December 30, 2018	9:00 am	65
Total in Worship Last Weekend	89

2018 Contribution Statements and 2019 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the new year 2019 are available for your pick-up downstairs.

Contribution statements for year 2018 are available for pick-up in the **narthex**.

There are still some 2019 offering envelopes remaining in the **church basement Bible study room** awaiting your pick-up. Special boxes are available for those who give electronically. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please take an unmarked box. Questions? Please contact the church office or Financial Secretary Danny Crull.

Altar Flowers to the Glory of God . . .

In loving memory of Bob Sloman – By his wife Gen



The *Bridge Builder*

a weekly publication of

ST. MATTHEW EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

305 LEMONT STREET

LEMONT, IL 60439

Online Giving Available On Our Web Site

St. Matthew's website, www.smlclemont.com, is set up to receive secure, online donations. Just click on the "Donate Now!" button on the home page, or scan this QR code with your smart phone to set up your account and make your weekly contribution.



The weekly bulletin deadline is **Thursday at 9:00 AM**, unless otherwise noted. Place articles in the church office mailbox in the Communications Center, or e-mail them to office.stmatthewlemont@gmail.com. Write down event dates and times on the church office hallway calendar if you would like them included in the Bridge Builder's calendar.



St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

REVEREND MICHAEL GUDGEL, PASTOR
JASON RANDALL, ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR
DANA PRICE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ANNE DREVLLOW, OFFICE ASSISTANT

305 Lemont Street ♦ Lemont, IL 60439-3678
(630) 257-5000

The church office is open varying hours Monday-Saturday. Please call ahead if you need assistance.

Pastor's E-mail: michael.gudgel@gmail.com
Pastor's Home Phone: 630-243-6588
Church Office's E-mail: office.stmatthewlemont@gmail.com
Website: www.smlclemont.com

Saturday Worship 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School, High School, and Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Reaching the lost and encouraging the found with the saving grace of Jesus Christ