



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church
818 West Wisconsin Avenue
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066-2699
Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the WELS



AUGUST 2007

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going...For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:8, 10).

Would you have responded like Abraham? The Lord said, "Leave your country, your people, and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." How could Abraham just pick up and leave? How could he travel without knowing where he was going?

He knew. He was going to heaven. God had promised that through Abraham all nations would be blessed. The Son of God would become the Son of Man through Abraham's ancestry. The Messiah would make the sacrifice God required to fully pay for the

sin of the world. By His Word of promise, God had worked His miracle in Abraham's heart. Abraham believed and was righteous in God's sight. In faith he followed His Lord and Savior on a pilgrimage that would end in an eternal home.

In a way, we're all like Abraham. God has called us to faith by the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. Through faith in Jesus we're forgiven of all sin. We may not know every detail of our life's journey. Sometimes the road is smooth; at other times it is so very rough. But at the end of the journey, God will welcome us into His heavenly home.

So pack lightly. This world is not our home. We're only using its stuff for a little while. Continue to hear God's Word and receive Christ's body and blood to strengthen you for the journey ahead. Follow God's call to the home Jesus has prepared for you!

-Pastor Schultz

Encircled by God's Eternal Blessing St. Matthew's has received God's rich grace in Christ through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament since its inception. Now as we say "Fare-Well" to Pastor and Lee Ann Schroeder, we pause to again reflect on our Lord's great love for us. Through His Son He has given us eternal life. His grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. He has blessed us with the faithful ministry of the gospel through Pastor Schroeder. Thank you, Pastor, for being Christ's servant among us and for giving your life to the gospel ministry as Christ's love compelled you. Thank you, Lee Ann, for your love in Christ as a pastor's wife.

The "Luther's Seal," which is on the bulletin cover for Pastor Schroeder's farewell service, conveys rich meaning. Luther devised the seal to express his theology. He explained the symbolism of his seal: A black cross rests on a red heart "to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us." The heart rests on the center of a white rose "to show that faith causes joy, consolation, and peace.. White is the ideal color of all angels and blessed spirits." The rose is fixed in a blue sky "to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest and beginning of heavenly joy to come." A golden ring "to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless and more precious than all joys and treasures" surrounds the sky.

May God grant us His Holy Spirit so that we receive His holy Word with gratitude and remain in confession of it to the end.

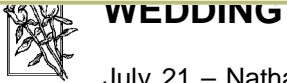


BAPTISMS

June 24 – Riley Russell Dodge, infant son of David and LeeAndra Dodge; Sponsors: Melissa Birling and Shane Dodge

July 8 - Caleb Daniel Schreiber, infant son of Brent and Shaw, Witness: Stephanie Hoban

July 29 – Lucas Donald Becker, infant son of Keith and Kimberly Becker; Sponsors: Terry and Kim Becker, Witnesses: Erik and Nicole Streblov



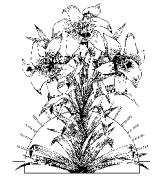
WEDDING

July 21 – Nathaniel Rupnow and Sheila Caudill



FUNERAL

July 7 – Phyllis Lauterbach who died on July 3 at the age of 67



MEMORIALS

In memory of:

<u>Phyllis Lauterbach</u>	
Debt Retirement	\$240
Rooted in Christ	125

THANK YOU

The Schultz Family thanks St. Matthew's for the welcome to our congregation & community. We're grateful to the Lord for a safe arrival and pray He will bless us all as we serve Him in Jesus' name. We also thank the Ladies' Guild for the generous gift coupon to fill our fridge & pantry!

CATECHISM PARENTS

Pastor will outline our course of Bible study for this year's catechism classes & review the parents' role in training their children through our instructions. St. Matthew's school parents will meet with pastor at the parent meeting nights, August 19 & 23, 7:00 p.m. Public school parents will meet with pastor at 9:15 a.m. between services on Sunday, August 19.

MISSION BOX OFFERINGS

The spring and summer mission box offerings for the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society are due for August. Please bring our offerings, cash or check, to one of the Sunday services between now and then and give them to Marion Schoenike or Mary Lou Schmidt. Checks may be made out to: St. Matthew's Ladies Guild, marked as a mission box offering. All funds will then be forwarded to the Rock River Circuit. Watch for the September newsletter which will include a full description of the projects chosen for the 2007-08 circuit support as well as the distribution to the LWMS at large.

LWMS CONVENTION NEWS

The beautiful GM Renaissance Center and Detroit Marriott on the banks of the Detroit River in Michigan provided 1053 women and men of the WELS with a perfect setting to concentrate on MISSIONS. From the opening service on Thursday evening, attended by 1346 persons, to the disappearance of the last mission flag on Sunday morning, the air was electric with opportunity to concentrate on the theme of the convention, "I have engraved you on the palms of my hands..." (Isaiah 49:16).

Missionary Robert Wendland from Malawi, Africa, a young missionary born in Africa to missionary parents, set the tone of the convention speaking on those words. He left no room for doubt that we are God's children, richly blessed, because our names are engraved on the palms of His hands. Further devotions throughout that weekend enhanced that theme "My times are in your hands".... (Psalm 31 :15a); "So that all peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful".... (Joshua 4:24a); "The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord "... (Acts 11:2); "No one can snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28b) ; and "Look at my hands"... (Luke 24: 36b-48).

Attendees were afforded time to choose special workshops also pointing to opportunities for hands to serve our Lord. Mission speakers directed us to personal glimpses of hands at work in Brazil, Siberia, Military Civilian Chaplaincy, India, Dominion Republic, Canada, St. Lucia, and now Mozambique, Africa, along with many, many other mission fields at home and abroad.

In addition to the canvassing and witnessing approaches to mission work, many of the missionaries pointed out the importance of being part of one's community and living lives reflecting the love of Jesus. Bible camps, soccer camps, steel band concerts, Easter for Kids, Christmas celebrations, and English Conversation Outreach are all great tools for sharing the love of Jesus.

While sharing poignant stories of unbelievers across the U.S. and around the world being reached with the Word and the accompanying joy in being assured of Jesus' love, missionaries also described the challenges they and their families faced when relocating to unfamiliar territory of our missions. Language barriers, homesickness, loneliness and separation from families, dietary changes, lack of electricity, no church building, strong cultural customs, transportation and housing differences are but a few of the things to which adaptations must be made. Interestingly, Pastor Ashok one of the first five



seminary graduates of India, provided a bit of precious insight into cultural differences, too. This was his first trip out of India and on leaving the airport following arrival in the U.S.A., he received a great shock when, riding along with his mentor, Pastor M. Krueger, he looked at the car next to them on the road and said, "Look! Look! There is a woman driving the car."

Viewing a large variety of mission displays, being able to talk personally with the missionaries serving in our stead (Christ's great commission is not limited to pastors and teachers), hearing the personal witness of so many missionaries along with profound thanks for all prayers, cards, letters and gifts fills ones heart to overflowing. Enjoying the fellowship with women and men who want to share Jesus with all the world bringing others to the comfort of knowing their names are engraved on the palms of his hands is what it is all about!

You can't imagine what it feels like to know each person present is there to do one thing--share the love of Jesus. As we left on Sunday morning, old and new friends hugged, bid each other a good year and all felt renewed in their zeal to be, "United to Serve Jesus".

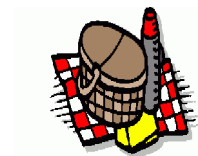
Won't you mark your calendar now for next year's convention, June 26-28, 2008, and make it the vacation of a lifetime in Tucson AZ? The theme of that convention will be "Tell the Glory of His King-

dom" and, of course, the area offers endless opportunity for sightseeing before and after the convention. Arlene Lassanske and Mary Lou and Ralph Schmidt with Mary Lou serving as St. Matthew's delegate and Arlene being the alternate. (Please watch for more notes about the 2007 and 2008 conventions)

LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEERS

Calling all those hoping to lead and encourage and mentor our young girls of St. Matthew's Lutheran Girl Pioneers and Sunbeams!

We are looking for additional help with leading some nights for our older girls this year. We have 5th - 8th grade with only one adult committed for the entire group and year. That is a lot to handle for anyone. If you are interested in being a guest teacher/leader for a special workshop, or maybe you would like to "co-lead" with another happy leader, please give us a call. I will be happy to answer any questions about our program and all the benefits that you will enjoy if you take up this challenge and join us. We are looking forward to another wonderful year filled with service opportunities, fun events and outings, special projects, camping and more. All of the topics we cover are as always "Christ centered" and steeped with the Word of God. Please call Chris Dovnik today at (262) 567-0221.



Church Picnic

The annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 26 after the 10am church service. We will be gathering in our backyard for food and games. Serving will begin around 11:30. Please bring a dish to pass, with food being divided by your last name: A-G--salad, H-Q--main dish, R-Z--dessert. You are most welcome to bring more than one dish. Meat and buns, paper goods (plates, silverware, napkins), and beverages (water, soda, beer, lemonade), as well as condiments will be provided. Any questions, please contact Jeff Natzke or Kim Italiano. Plan on joining us for an afternoon of fun in the sun!

LIBRARY NEWS

Summer is coming to an end. Parents are your children complaining of boredom? Children---the library has materials for you!

For the young children you will see on the very bottom shelves "read to me" books like, "Does God Know How to Tie Shoes" and "Angels are my Friends" or picture books that will help your children grow in their understanding of God, like "Gertie's Not Alone" the story of a gentle hen who is left alone after her rooster is taken away. There are also many vid-

eos including some "Veggie Tales".

For the school age children, books in the J and JF sections include titles like "Jellyfish Can't Swim and Other Secrets of the Animal World." There are easier reading biographies like that of Martin Luther and fiction books like "Red as in Russia" about a family that seeks to escape Russia because their Christian school has been closed. We also have the "Chronicles of Narnia" series. There are video's on the bottom shelf that would interest you too.

Finally there is a small teen section- (T) is on the books. These books include subjects like, growing up, dating, manners etc. Two interesting books in the adult section you might like are Yaalahn and Dohastida, fiction novels based on life in the early years on our Apache Mission. . There are also Videos like "The Sweetest Girl" and "Eye of the Storm", and Cd's with such groups as Michael W. Smith, Revelation, Sierra and others.

Enjoy!!!!!!!



Again this year we will be offering "Power for Parenting," immediately following Power Hour on Thursdays from 10 to 10:30. PPH staff will provide childcare during this time when Angie Molkentini will lead a 30-minute devotion especially designed to spiritually recharge those who care for children. This is provided at no added cost.

PPH classes are open to the community. If you do not have a child between ages 0-4, perhaps you know someone who does. Please take a brochure to pass along to a relative, friend, or neighbor. Bulletin inserts with a registration form will also be available at an upcoming Sunday/Monday service.

PPH will be providing drinks to all attendees to Kid's Fest at Fowler Park on Tuesday, August 14 from 9 AM to 1 PM.

SUNDAY BIBLE SCHOOL



Sunday Bible School will be starting on September 9, 2007 at 9:15AM. The classes this fall will continue to follow the material to be learned in confirmation. This year we will be covering the three articles, and reviewing the commandments and meanings from last year. Each Sunday a Bible story will be used to teach and give an example of the principles from the article or commandment. By the end of this year the older

children should be able to recite the articles and their meanings, all the commandments and their meanings, and the conclusion to the commandments. The Sunday class periods will also acquaint them with key Bible stories which are necessary in confirmation as well.

We have coordinated with our day school to insure the lessons being presented in Sunday Bible School are not what was covered in the lessons at LES. Notebooks will be sent home with your child containing the lesson of the week and memory work that should be completed during the week. Make sure your child brings the notebook each time they come to class. Parents please take the time to cover the material with your children. They will enjoy you working with them on this important task.

Registration starts Aug 5th. Pick up a registration form in the narthex or go on-line to obtain the form from our website. May the Lord grant you His blessings as we work together on "training your child in the way they should go".

We are in need of two male teachers for the grades 5-7 group of children. If you would like to take part in this wonderful opportunity, please contact Dennis Fletcher, at dfletcher@smls.org or by phone 567-2418 ext. 30 or at Dennis's home 567-1475.

Our first Sunday Bible School teachers meeting will be held on August 1 at 8:00AM.



LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEERS

Girls in 1st thru 8th grade do you want to learn more about your Savior while having fun with your friends? Then Lutheran Girl Pioneers is for you! You will have fun learning new crafts, cooking, playing games and hearing wonderful devotions. Registration Night will be on Tuesday, September 4th in the school gymnasium. Come anytime between 6:30pm and 8:00pm for the open house to learn more about LPG, meet the leaders and register your child. There will be no meeting for the girls this night, just time to register the girls so that they will be ready to start another fun year.

ADDRESSES NEEDED

High school and college students we would like to keep our church records updated so that we can contact our young members with pertinent church information. We would like to know where our

members of St. Matthew's are attending high school or where they are enrolled in college. We would appreciate it if you would send the name of your high school or college, your student address, phone number, and your year in school (freshman, sophomore, etc.) to the church office. Please let us hear from you.



"Be a Hero" In our world today many headlines you read are catchy and sometimes even hyped. However, when it comes to donating blood, you are helping/ enriching/saving another's life. Blood is a precious gift! We have received several notifications from the Blood Center of Wisconsin that shortages of blood supplies are very real this summer. Can you help? We will have A blood drive at St. Matthew's on Wednesday, August 1st from 2:30pm – 7:30pm. If you have any questions, please call our church office and speak to Dennis Fletcher, 567-2418, ext. 30; or Amy Bence, ext. 32. As you schedule an appointment, please also consider inviting a friend, relative or co-worker to come along with you and donate.



NEWSLETTER

Amy Bence has assumed editorial responsibility for our monthly church newsletter. Comments about the newsletter and its contents should be brought to her.

Sara Portale continues to do an outstanding job in gathering materials each month. Her role as the person to whom articles and information from the organizations should be submitted for publication in the newsletter remains unchanged. Electronic transmission of your materials to her as e-mail attachments is the preferred method to use.

SYNOD WEBSITE

Those of you with computers online you may want to visit our synod web site. It is located at www.wels.net. For those of you that are receiving this newsletter in electronic form just click on the link above. It will automatically take you to the WELS website. You can look around and find a devotion of the day and sign up to have that feature delivered to you each day. News of what is going on in the WELS is also on the site, as well as links to places such as Northwestern Publishing, or the synod yearbook if you need

to know if a church is available at your vacation destination. You can look up pastors, teachers, and staff ministers and where they are presently serving in a call. Good information on lots of subjects are listed for your use. A new feature just added is the royalty free art pictures for your use or to submit one of your own digital or digitized photos. Check it out!

DID YOU KNOW?

Every week we get questions about procedures and practices here at St. Matthew's. It is good now and then to go over procedures, especially for our new members. Here are the answers to some of the questions frequently asked:

1) **Special Prayers** We are frequently asked about special prayers requested for anniversaries, weddings, health-related issues, etc. Usually people ask how to request such a prayer or why one wasn't given at one of our services.

Our pastors do not assume that everyone wants a public prayer for a special occasion. They wait for requests for such prayers. We do not routinely have a public prayer in church for a 25th or 50th wedding anniversary, or when someone is ill. The pastors wait for requests. There are privacy concerns that some people have, and the pastors have no way of being able to determine whether people want their privacy

maintained or want a public prayer at a worship service.

2) **Illness/hospitalizations** We do not routinely receive calls from the local hospitals regarding hospitalizations anymore. In the past, if a member was hospitalized, the hospital called our church office to inform our pastors of the hospitalization. But because of the new federal HIPPA laws, the hospital cannot give out any information without the patient's request. Sometimes the hospital doesn't have enough volunteers to make the notification calls that are requested by patients. So if you or your loved one is homebound with an illness or hospitalized, please call one of the pastors or the church office to make us aware of these circumstances.

3) **Altar Flowers** If you would like to provide altar flowers on a specific date, please sign up on the Flower Chart in the church narthex. There is a member of the Flower Committee assigned to take care of the placement of the flowers in the church after they are delivered by the florist. If you need to know the name of the person handling this task on a specific date, please check with the church office. When you have selected a florist, please make arrangements with the flower committee person for that month regarding delivery of the flowers.

Generally, a single center arrangement for the altar works best, but we have inserts for our brass vases, when a double side

arrangement on the altar is preferred. When the inserts are used, it is your responsibility to call the church office and arrange to pick up the inserts and take them to your florist. If you take arrangements home after the services, **please be sure to return the inserts to church**

4) **Information Center** We try to communicate with our members through the Information Center in the church narthex. *Meditations*, tracts, booklets, usher schedules, the school newsletter, SCRIP order forms, recent bulletins, current church newsletters, etc., are made available there.

5) **Master Calendar** All functions of the church and school are scheduled on our "master calendar." These meetings and activities are then posted on our website and printed on the monthly church and school calendars. The pastors, principal and secretaries work together to coordinate these functions. If you would like to reserve a facility area/time, please call the church office to schedule your activity. Call the school office if your event requires the use of school facilities.

6) **Questions, problems or assistance ?** If you need assistance or have a question, check with the pastor, staff minister, the principal, or anyone of our faculty and staff. No question or concern is too small. We want to assist you in any way that we can.