

St. Matthew Newsletter

Our Vision: Connecting the world with Jesus Christ

Our Mission: Faithfully living as the Body of Christ, and sharing the Gospel that brings salvation

❖ Pastor's Message

Rev. Steven Andrews, Jr.

Make Them Known to Your Children... But How?

Parents and grandparents. The Lord has entrusted you with the wonderful gift of children. The single most important task you have as a parent is to teach your children about the faith you have in Jesus Christ, in who He is and what He has done for you. It's how God designed us to pass on our faith.

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our God, Yahweh is one. ⁵ You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ **You shall teach them diligently to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." – Deuteronomy 6:4-9

But how? How do we teach our children? How do we do family devotions? What *is* a devotion?

A devotion is based on that word, "devote." A devotion is anything that we do as we set aside time in our day for God.

Let's allow God's Word to guide us and answer these important questions:

¹⁶ Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." – Colossians 3:16-17

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Read God's Word daily yourself.

Read God's Word together daily as a family.

I would suggest a chapter a day. That will usually only take 3-4 minutes.

Ask your children questions about the chapter.

Content: where was Jonah supposed to go?

Exploring: why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh?

Application: sometimes it's hard to share our faith, but who is someone you know that needs to hear about Jesus' love for them?

You can use children's Bibles, but remember they are made to be outgrown, while our faith isn't. They will never outgrow the Word, so make it the main course, and children's Bibles the side dishes.

The best children's Bible I know of is from CPH.org, *The Story Bible*. The pictures look real, helping your children know this isn't just a story, but actual history. And, they give you questions you can ask!

Like filling and overflowing a water bottle, what you fill yourself with is what you have to give to those around you! That means being equipped to use God's Word both to encourage fellow Christians and to share it with unbelievers.

Use a podcast to aid you in your study of Scripture so you can better teach it to your children:

Rev. Will Weedon's *The Word of the Lord Endures Forever* covers a chapter of the Bible in 15 minutes – thewordendures.org

My own *The Daily Bite* is designed intentionally for this, a 20 minute study on a chapter, giving you context and commentary as well as questions to ask your children – <https://anchor.fm/rev-steve-andrews-jr>

Singing Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

Sing a hymn together as part of your daily devotion.

To help learn and memorize a hymn, try staying with the same hymn for at least a week at a time. Ask your pastor for a hymn from next weekend's service. This gives you the chance to learn it together and then sing it with the larger family in church.

To help you sing, most of our hymns can be found on YouTube or you can use app.lutherservicebuilder.com. Just sign up for a free account and then use the search (magnifying glass) in the upper right corner of the screen to search for the hymn you want to use (by name or number, even keywords or Scriptures!). Once you open it from the list of results, there will be a play button at the top that can play the tune for you so you can sing along. CPH's *My First Hymnal* is essentially a smaller version of the *Lutheran Service Book* and a wonderful tool for children. It even gives you the audio of the hymns to listen to as you are on the road together.

With thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Pray to God. By yourself. As a family. Throughout the day. At set times. Keep praying.

Paul says we are to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Don't be concerned about bothering God. He invites your prayers. And He cares about you!

Luther's *Small Catechism* includes a guide to daily prayer, with prayers at waking, eating, and going to bed.

Rote prayers (pre-written), like the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Evening and Morning Prayers, the Psalms, and our hymns are wonderful prayers.

Spontaneous prayers can also be useful tools. As a family, it helps you know what your children are wrestling with in their lives.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Make serving others a regular part of your life. Again, alone, and also as a family.

You already serve your children each day. Build a discipline of thanking God for these opportunities of meal prep, diaper changes, errand running, and more. You are caring for one (or more) of His creations, and this is good! As your children see you rejoicing over even the little things, they will learn to do the same.

Pick a neighbor. How can you help them? Children often love making cards (color a picture and include a Bible verse and drop it off), baking (make some cookies or a special treat to take next door), or just giving in general (donate a meal to a sick neighbor).

Live liturgically. The word "liturgy" simply means "form/pattern."

In the Old Testament (see Exodus 12-13 for example), God gave His people a new calendar, distinct from the world around them. And, that calendar revolved around Him and what He did for them, with holy days like Passover and the Day of Atonement. The church's calendar today does the same thing!

Put a church year calendar in your home, perhaps in the room you do family devotions.

Teach the seasons of the church year to your children, as it will encourage you to point them to Christ again and again.

Ask your pastor for the various traditions around these seasons that you can do as a family in the home. For example, many families will use an Advent wreath as the centerpiece

Ask your pastor for the various traditions around these seasons that you can do as a family in the home. For example, many families will use an Advent wreath as the centerpiece on their table during Advent. Children love lighting and extinguishing the candles, and it's a great reminder throughout the day to think of Jesus and to have that family devotion time.

You can even ask your pastor for traditions around the various saints' days and minor festivals.

As a quick encouragement, you already do a lot of this with Christmas and Easter! I am simply inviting you to consider other traditions, too, at other times of the year.

Conclusion

Our family pattern with our four daughters happens at dinner each night. I'm the fastest eater, so I've got the opportunity to read God's Word to them before they start wanting to run around. I read them a chapter of the Bible, then we speak together the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, and then we sing a hymn. It takes roughly 10-15 minutes per evening. We aren't perfect at keeping our routine, but on those few days we miss, the girls will often remind us!

That's why perhaps the most crucial part of family devotions is to make it a routine. Pick a place and a time where your family can be together. Carve it out intentionally as something of primary importance, as this will teach your children what you value in life.

❖ St. Matthew Preschool News

Thank you to St Matthew Church and all the prayer/pen pal partners for making this another great year at St Matthew Preschool. We had 35 children successfully graduate on May 19.

❖ Mission News *...from Annie Femrite, our Board representative for Missions and Outreach*

Recent donations to further God's kingdom:

—LCMS for Ukraine \$3000 (LCMS World Mission)

—VOM \$1000 (Voice of the Martyrs)

—LBT \$1000 (Lutheran Bible Translators)

—LIMM \$1000 (Lutherans in Medical Mission)

—ARM \$2000 (African Radio Ministry)

—GLO \$1000 in support of Heather and Nathan Pittman in Nigeria (Global Lutheran Outreach)

—The latest newsletter from ARM is in the binder. Lots going on for the Gospel!

—Stay tuned for our next Mission Movie night in June. "Tortured for Christ" is the prequel to the "Sabina" movie we showed earlier. Stay tuned for the date. The movie is presently under review and details are forthcoming!

❖ Altar Guild

The Altar Guild members will meet on Saturday, June 11 at 10 a.m. in the Narthex. We will have a short meeting followed by some Sanctuary cleaning tasks. If you are interested in joining the Altar Guild, please contact Deb Langsdale or Pastor Otto for information!

❖ Classics Resumes — *We welcome you to join us that day!*

We had our Classics Homecoming May 5. What a joy it was to see all the Homecoming Queens and Kings! Please join us for our next Classics. It will be Thursday, June 2 at 11:30 in the Family Life Center. Our hosts will be Don & Peggy Ohrenberg and Lois & Glenn Lorei. As you're able, please bring a favorite dish, whether a main dish, side dish, or dessert. Bring it from home or from the store, as you choose. Come and share some good time with friends.

❖ LWML — *Women in Mission*

The 2022-2023 officers for St. Matthew LWML Society are the following: President, Darlene Coverdell; Vice-President, Eunice Brown; Treasurer, Patty Bechel; Secretary, Marilyn Stelljes. Thank you, Jean Stubbs, for the great job you have done as President these past four years.

LWML and St. Matthew Mission Committee are jointly sponsoring the Baby Bottle & Diaper Drive in an effort to financially assist Resource Health, (formerly known as Rachel House). Resource Health helps meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those dealing with unplanned pregnancies. This fundraiser began on Mother's Day (May 8th) and will end on Father's Day (June 19th). We encourage members of the congregation to donate sizes 1 and 3 diapers, wipes and/or take a baby bottle home to fill with loose change or monetary donation of any kind. The bottles will be collected on Father's Day. If you would like more information about Resource Health, please see the display in the church narthex.

LWML and the Altar Guild, jointly, will be serving a meal for the Vacation Bible School once again this year. We will be preparing Walking Tacos on Taco Tuesday, June 28th. Thank you to the LWML Hospitality Committee and the Altar Guild for taking on this task!

Save your cancelled Postage Stamps! They are used to support various mission activities. (However, we cannot use the Forever, Christmas or Love stamps.) Just cut the stamp off the envelope, leaving about ¼" around the stamp, and put them in Darlene Coverdell's mailbox. If you are not sure about which stamp to save and which to toss, save them all for us and we will use the ones we can and discard the others.

2022 LWML Mo District Convention will be held on June 3-5 at the Sheraton Westport Chalet in St. Louis. The theme will be "For Such a Time as This" based on Esther 4:14. Our representatives will be Patty Bechel, Joan Frakes, Elaine Froeschle and Donna Lacey. Hannah Andrews will be attending the convention as a Young Women's Representative from the KC South Zone. We wish you all a safe journey.

❖ LWML—Mission Grant

LWML Mission Grant #13—Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia—\$100,000—Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) will use LWML grant money from mites to reach the Kazakh people of Mongolia with the Gospel message. Because western missionaries are not welcome, LHM will use audio Bibles, radio programming, and outreach materials in their own language. You can find more information about this grant at lwml.org/mission-grants and view the grant poster at church on the 4th weekend when LWML mites (cash donations) are collected from the congregation to support ongoing missions.

❖ St. Matthew Prayer Partners

Do you have a prayer request? Are you interested in being on our e-mail list notifying you of prayers of the congregation? Contact Carrol McAllister at cammac2@swbell.net or 816-763-4535.

Deaconess Sarah Longmire: Our New Director of Family Life

Deaconess Sarah has accepted our Divine Call to serve at St. Matthew as our Director of Family Life. She concludes her duties in Chesterfield, Missouri, on June 3, and then will relocate to Lee's Summit, and has signed a lease on an apartment near our church. A service of installation will be held on Sunday, July 3, at 3:00 p.m., with a reception held in the Family Life Center immediately afterwards. Her office will be in the new administration wing - the corner office on the far right. Her duties will include: equipping parents to teach the faith (we currently hold 21 parent-child milestone classes throughout the year); overseeing Sunday school, Midweek, and VBS; planning activities and nurturing spiritual growth with Junior and Senior Youth; and engaging the families of our congregation in fellowship and service activities. Deaconess Sarah's new email address is deaconess@gracefaithlove.org.

B-I-N-G-O Family Game Night

Please join us Saturday, June 11th, immediately following the Saturday evening service, for a fun night of B-I-N-G-O!! Summit Pizza/salad/dessert, prizes, and fun for the whole family! In order for us to order the correct amount of food, please sign up in the Narthex, Family Life Center, or call/text/email Heidi Tanner at 816-377-0544 or hitanr@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!!

New Church Directory: Instant Church Directory

Beginning in mid-June, we will be rolling out a new pictorial directory. For the first time, this will be done using an online website with an app that you can even use on your cell phones. Two things for you to consider this week: 1) do you have a recent family photo that you like? If you would like it to be used for your family in this new directory, please email it to Pastor Andrews. 2) If you have concerns about the privacy of an online directory, and would either like to learn more about how your family's information will be protected or would like to opt out, please contact Pastor Andrews.

The Order of Matins

Our congregation uses a rotation of Divine Service 1, 3, 4, 5, and Prayer & Preaching. It has been years since we sang Matins, but quite a few members asked if we could on occasion. Matins is scheduled for the first three weeks in June: Pentecost Sunday, Trinity Sunday, and Father's Day. It is a familiar service like those we normally use, and includes a familiar hymn of praise ("Oh come let us sing unto the Lord") and the creed (the Te Deum) is sung instead of being spoken. We will sing Matins for three weeks in a row so the tunes become familiar to us again. - *Pastor Otto*

❖ Resource Health Baby Bottle & Diaper Drive — from May 7 to June 19, 2022

The St. Matthew Mission Committee and Lutheran Women in Mission are jointly sponsoring a drive for *Resource Health*, formerly *Rachel House*. Members of the congregation are invited to donate sizes 1 and 3 diapers, wipes, and/or coins/currency/check in the baby bottles provided. Watch for the display in the church narthex on Mother's Day. *Resource Health* helps meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those dealing with unplanned pregnancies.

St. Matthew



Lutheran Church
700 NE Chipman Rd.
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
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Regular Worship Times

5:00 Saturday

8:00 Sunday

10:45 Sunday

JUNE NEWSLETTER - 2022

Registration is Open for Vacation Bible School

Our VBS this summer will be held from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 26th through Thursday, June 30th. We are continuing our family format, so everyone is welcome to attend, no matter what age you are. We'll start with dinner together, then chapel, Bible study for children and adults, kids will also do music and an activity, and we conclude each night with a craft time together in the gym. For more information, or to sign up your household, please go to <https://www.myvbs.org/stmatthewlutheranmo>

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed

With VBS just about a month away, we need volunteers to help make it happen! We are looking for help in many ways: organizing craft supplies, prepping themed snacks, teaching children, leading crafts, teaching a hymn to the children, helping with registration/greeting and answering questions for our guests about where to go, meal prep, cleanup, Thrivent action teams to help fund the meals, watching infants, etc. If you are willing to help out, please sign up by contacting Pastor Andrews or using the link in our weekly email.

Adult Information Class — Summer

Pastor Otto will begin teaching a new Adult Information Class this summer. It will be Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. here at church. If you or someone you know would like to review the basic teachings of the Lutheran Church, this is a good opportunity. Begins Wednesday, June 15.