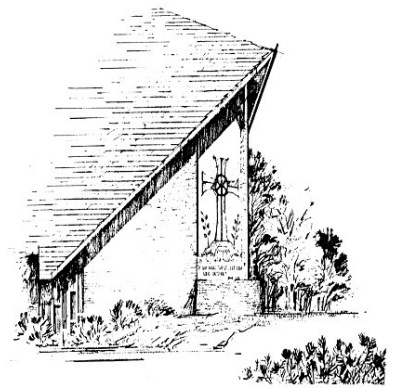


St. Matthew's NEWS



May, 2009

For His Sake

*"I tell you the truth, my Father will give you
whatever you ask In My Name."*

(John 16:23)

My fellow Christians,

Picture yourself before heaven's door. You have a request to make of the heavenly Father. You knock and he opens the door. "Lord," you begin, "I'm so and so and I've come to request such and such." The words are barely off your lips when he slams the door in your face. What else could you or I expect? After all, what right do sinners like us have to approach a holy God, much less to make demands of him?

Suppose you pick yourself up and try again. Once more you knock. And once more the door opens. "Lord," you pray, I'm your child! See, I wear the robe of righteousness woven by your Son on the loom of the cross. The stains on this robe are real! That's his blood that covers all my sin. He has told me that he has made me your redeemed and forgiven child and that now whatever I ask in his name, you will give to me."

The door opens wide. The Father's arms reach out. Lovingly he lifts you up on his knee. Tenderly he encourages you to speak. Why is it you and I, unworthy and wretched sinners, can come to the Lord God at all with our prayers? It's because of our risen and ascended Savior! Before God's throne our Jesus points to his love that paid for all our sins. Before God's throne our Jesus points to his grace that has made each of us a believer in him. And then our Jesus pleads that God would hear our prayers **"FOR HIS SAKE."** So it is possible for all of us in Jesus' name, only because of Jesus' full payment for our sins, to come to a holy God and find a loving Father who will both hear and always answer all such prayers in the way he knows will be best for us. You and I don't have to add the words **"this I ask for Jesus' sake"** to each prayer, but we do need to believe them. May our risen and ascended Jesus help us daily to use this great privilege only believers have to **"take it to the Lord in prayer."**

In the Name of Him whom together we serve,

Pastor Mark P. Lindner

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church – WELS

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Worship times

Sundays 8 & 10:30 a.m.

Mondays 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School & Bible Class

Sundays 9:15 a.m.

Newsletter Deadline:

Sunday, August 9th, 2009

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Pastor's Notes

New Sunday/Monday Bible Class

A new Sunday/Monday Bible Study has begun on St. Paul's letter to the Galatians. The great theme of that book is: *"a man is justified not by the works of the law but by faith in Christ."*

What is universal justification? What is saving faith? What does it mean to give glory to God? What is the difference between "observing the law" and "good works"? Should a Christian forget about good works since salvation is by faith alone? How does Satan want to make me uncertain about where I stand with God? Can a person lose faith in Christ once he has it? Why is there a constant battle between the Christian's Old Adam and New Man? What is Christian liberty? How does God want us to use it properly? These are just a few of many questions that the book of *GALATIANS* will answer for us.

Come and join your fellow Christians and study together with us this precious book from God's Word!

Ascension Day/Graduation

We will celebrate the Ascension into heaven of our victorious Lord Jesus Christ on *Thursday, May 21st, at 6:30 PM.* That will also be Graduation Day for our St. Matthew's 8th graders. What a wonderful opportunity for all of us, not only to ponder the meaning of Jesus' Ascension for our own lives, but also to invite others outside of our church family to come and meet their ascended Savior with us. Let's all make the most of this opportunity!

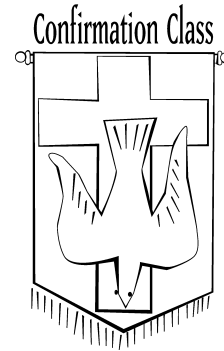
*Hail the day that sees him rise
To his throne above the skies!
Christ the Lamb for sinners given,
Re-ascends his native heaven.*



Confirmation 2009

12 of our Christian young people will soon stand before the altar of the Lord Jesus and promise their lifelong devotion and faithfulness to him. This year's confirmation class is:

Paul Foster
Olivia Langer
Ben Groomwald
Melissa Muche
Ashley Hartwig
Paige Munns
Molly Hickstein
Robert Schmidt
Caleb Holtz
Nathaniel Traver
Lindsey Jones
Thomas Weger



They will have the special opportunity to share with all of us the saving truths of God's Word in an Examination Service *on Wednesday, May 13th, at 6:30 P.M.* Their confirmation will take place *on Sunday, May 17th, in the 10:30 service.* They will receive communion as a class *on Sunday, May 31st, in the 10:30 service.* Please keep these Christian young people in your daily prayers. Offer each of them your own personal words of loving encouragement as they take up their places as communicant members of our Christian family here at St. Matthew's. May our Savior keep them always in his tender care! May the Holy Spirit who has given them the gift of faith continue to nurture his gift through a lifetime of closeness to Word and Sacrament! May they be a blessing to Jesus and to his Church until he calls them home to heaven!

We also have a number of our Christian young men and ladies who are graduating from high school and college. We join with them in thanking the Savior for bringing them to this milestone in their lives. May he continue to bless them and use them to be a blessing to his Kingdom!

**Pastor's Notes (cont'd.)
A Special Time of Year
For the WELS**

This is the time of year when Jesus reminds us how he has so richly blessed our church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, with his gift of new, eager, and Biblically sound pastors and teachers.

Lord willing, close to a hundred graduates from Martin Luther College will receive their first call into the teaching ministry during a special worship service on the MLC campus on **Saturday, May 16th**. The following week at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary over 40 pastoral candidates will receive their first call into the preaching ministry during a special worship service on the Seminary campus on **Thursday, May 21st at 10 AM**. Two days before that, 41 men will receive their vicar assignments – a year in their seminary training when they serve under an experienced pastor in one of our WELS congregations. The vicar assignment service will held on **Tuesday, May 19th, at 7:00 PM**.

This year's Assignment Day is especially exciting for St. Matthew's. At our recent voters' meeting, our men voted overwhelmingly to call a vicar for 2009-2010. Because our Seminary understands the importance of young men having this vicar experience as part of their seminary training and because they felt that St. Matthew's would be an excellent place for one of our future pastors to receive his training, a \$10,000 grant has been given to our congregation for just that! We humbly thank our Lord and his Seminary for this gift and also the great trust they have placed in us. We now have yet another positive opportunity to add to **all the other ones** our gracious Lord Jesus continues to give our St. Matthew's family to carry out Gospel ministry in his name! May all of us support this positive blessing not only with our offerings, but with the personal encouragement we give to this young man, whoever he may be. He will arrive in our midst in early August. He will need to find a place to live for his vicar year. If anyone knows of some housing opportunity that might be available to him in August, please contact Pastor Lindner.

Council Corner

Attention: Ushers

Please make sure you are checking your mailboxes every Sunday to get your bulletin and any other correspondence that anyone at church may have for you. It also helps us to see if you have been at church if we don't see you or attend a different service. Thank you and have a safe and blessed summer. - The Elders

Ushering

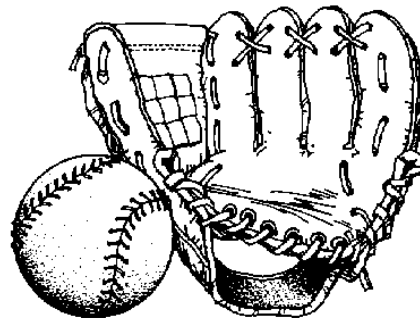
If there is any Confirmed age or older male that would like to be an usher, there is a new schedule that will be coming out for July through December. Teams usher about 1 every 5-6 weeks, and it is a wonderful way to serve our congregation and our Lord Jesus. If you would like any information, or would like to become an usher please call Jake Herden at 756-1653.

Potluck Section

Men's Softball Schedule

Below are a list of the games for this summer's softball season. Please come and cheer on our men as they enjoy fun and

DATE	TIME	FIELD
5/11	7:40	N
5/18	7:40	S
5/25	No Games	
6/1	6:50	E
6/8	6:50	E
6/15	7:40	W
6/22	7:40	S
6/29	7:40	E
7/6	7:40	W
7/13	6:50	N
7/20	7:40	S
7/27	7:40	E
8/3	7:40	W



Staff Minister's Notes

Sunday School Notes

Regular Sunday School & Bible Study

The regular Sunday School classes for the year continue through May 31st. All of the present classes will continue through that Sunday as will the teen Bible studies and the adult Bible studies. (Sunday mornings 9:15 to 10:10 between services).

Summer Sunday School

The summer Sunday School quarter (extended summer studies) will begin on **June 7th** at the regular time during the other Bible studies from 9:15 to 10:10. It is understood that there are vacation dates that sometimes take families out of town for a Sunday or two. However, we pray that all will come as usual on the Sundays that you are around. Include Bible studies in your summer plans.

The summer Sunday School schedule is:

June 7 – July 5: "How God Uses Paul & Others to Spread the New Testament Christian Church"

July 12 – Aug. 30: "Bible Lessons to Teach Us the Meaning of Each of the Petitions of the Lord's Prayer"

Summer Sunday School is divided into classes as follows: (based on new grade level)
Pre K & K, 1 & 2, 3 & 4, 5 – 8.

Teachers Needed

If possible, we try to have two teachers for each level so that vacation times are more easily arranged.

We can still use more teaching help for the summer classes. Contact Judy Krause (752-1313) Staff Minister Wentzel (758-4693 or 752-1304) by phone or in person.



Vacation Bible School

Because of the 4-H Fair dates, we have rescheduled our St. Matthew's VBS for **Aug. 10 - 14**. Our theme this year is "Dive In". Sign-up sheets will be posted later and announced in the bulletin for students, leaders and helpers. Watch for this.

NOTE:

- Peace Lutheran will run their VBS during the week of Aug. 3 – 7.
- St. John's Milton will join with St. Matthew's at our location on Aug. 10-14.

ALSO: Plans are underway to invite the community to both weeks of WELS' VBS programs with newspaper notices and flyers that will be distributed on the evening of July 29th and, of course, members' personal invitations.

UPDATES & PARTICULARS WILL BE IN THE BULLETIN.

Special Thanks

The congregation thanks our Sunday School staff for their faithful work with the students:

TEACHERS: Judy Krause, Director of Students, Brenda Moench, Steve Schmidt, Lisa Thoni, Ben Moench, Jennifer North-Herden, Michala Nolte, Tonya Barrett.

HELPERS: Joshua Proeber, Matt Proeber, Ashley Sonntag, Jessica Barrett, Amy Thoni (special education), Kathy Hendee (accompanist)

We wish all the blessings of our Savior Jesus!



**THANK YOU TO OUR
SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHERS**

L W M S

L W M S Spring Rally Recap – Rock River Circuit

Our rally was held at St. Matthew's, Oconomowoc on Saturday, April 18th. Three ladies from our congregation attended. Total attendance was 128, representing 17 of the 20 congregations in our circuit.

Our speakers for the morning session were Carol Egelseer and Sarah Malchow, who spent time in Nigeria mentoring the native women of our WELS in Nigeria. Some of these women are the wives of native Pastors or men studying to be Pastors. Presently there are no resident missionaries there, so Pastor Weiser from Washington State visits periodically. (He and one other lady made the trip with Carol and Sarah.) The four of them visited 6 different churches while there. They found the Nigerian women to be loving, giving and very generous. Their Bibles and choir music are so worn from use, it puts us to shame. They put their whole selves into their church services and music. Dancing is a part of their worship as they bring their offerings to the Lord. Services can last 3 to 3-1/2 hours.

Nigeria has a population of 138 million people. The literacy rate of those over 15 years of age is 67%. Their life span is 47-48 years due to the many health problems caused by the bad water. Malaria is very prevalent.

50% of the people in Nigeria are Muslim, 40% are Christian and 10% practice native religions. We presently have 32-33 natives studying to be pastors or are presently pastors. There are graduations for these students only once every 5-6 years. Please keep these men in your prayers as they continue to study for the ministry.

At our afternoon session we had a flag presentation of the countries where we have missionaries, including the USA and Canada. We presently have 16 countries where we have established and ongoing missionaries dating from 1893. There are 6 countries with limited missionary presence, and 7 countries with independent confessional churches. Please keep all these countries and missionaries in your prayers. Pray for their safety as well.

Central Africa Medical Mission

Can you help? The missionaries proclaiming the Word of God in Africa in the 1950's quickly became known as compassionate people who could provide peace for the soul and treat physical illnesses. The ability to handle the physical care, however, became difficult due to the large number of people needing assistance. In 1957 the WELS Convention recognized the need to address the physical needs of the African people by establishing the Central Africa Medical Mission. The women's organizations WELS congregations were designated to provide for this program with an annual financial pledge and to promote it. In 2009, the medical mission still operates solely on individual donations and the generosity of women's groups. If you would like to make a donation to support this "mission of love", a check (payable to Central Africa Medical Mission) may be sent to WELS/CAMM PO Box 64064 St. Paul's MN 55164-0064 or given to your local contact woman. (Norma Ehrke-1014 Monroe Street, Fort Atkinson, WI - 920-563-6847).



School Bulletin Board

Enrolling For The 2009 – 2010 School Year

We have begun looking at class sizes for the coming school year. In order to help us plan for books and supplies; we will need to get a precise count. If you plan to send your child to school here at St. Matthew's next year – there is nothing you need to do. You will be automatically preregistered for the 2009-2010 school year. If you have children in school that will not be returning next year (8th grade excluded) please make that known to either your child's teacher or to Mr. Proeber as soon as possible.

We appreciate your help in this matter, as we will begin ordering books and supplies for next year very soon.

School Fees For Next Year



The school fees for next year are as follows. The fee for the first child will be \$525, the second child will be \$450 and the third child will be \$425. The cost of tuition for the first child in grades K-8 will be \$2,900.00. The cost of tuition for the second or third child in school will be \$2,700.00. If you are a member of St. Matthew's please remember this in your weekly offerings to the Lord. The tuition for non-WELS members will be \$3,000.00. The second or third child will be \$2,800.00.

Four year-old-preschool next year will be held three days a week. (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) from 12:30-3:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$50.00. The tuition for the year will be \$960.00 or \$240.00 per quarter.

Three year-old-preschool will be held on Tuesday & Thursday from 12:30-3:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$50.00. The tuition for the year will be \$720.00 or \$180.00 per quarter.

Track Meet

On **Monday, May 11th**, the 5th-8th grades will go to the Monterey Track to compete in the Mustang Invitational Track Meet. The rain date is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13. Make sure you bring lunches and suntan lotion. The meet will include seven other schools and many different events. Some concessions will be available for purchase. Good Luck, Mustangs!



Arbor Day



On **Tuesday, May 15th**, the 5th-8th grades will have an Arbor Day. The children will be divided into groups and assigned certain tasks such as raking, painting, or staining. Please bring old clothes along, gloves, and old paintbrushes, which can be thrown away. Garden tools may also be brought especially shovels and steel rakes.

Graduation Service

Our Graduation Service will be held on **Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m.** Pre 4 yr. olds thru 8th grade will be singing as well as our Junior Choir. If your child will not be attending please let us know by written note or a phone call. After the service the children will meet in their classrooms to receive their report cards.



Last Day Of School

The last day of school will be held on **Thursday, May 21**. Our school picnic will be held at 10:30 a.m. The students eat free. **All others who wish to dine with us will be charged \$2.50.** Ribbons from the school track meet will also be distributed. Children will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. The children should be picked up immediately after school. There will be a faculty/8th grade softball game at noon.



Congratulations To Our Eighth Graders!

Congratulations to our 8th graders as they go on to high school. May God go with them throughout their life. We wish all our children a blessed summer season and look forward to their return in August.



Thank You

As the end of the school year approaches, the faculty would like to thank you for all your prayers, support, and cooperation this past year. Once again it has been a great blessing for us to teach

"God's Little Lambs".