



The Messenger

“ST. MATTHEW’S CHURCH: A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLES”

October, November, December 2017 Volume 70, Issue 10/11/12 2017



The laborers in the vineyard by Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth A. Eaton

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Just before Jesus entered Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday, Jesus told a very interesting parable. It's sometimes known as the "Laborers in the vineyard" ([Matthew 20:1-16](#)).



You remember how it goes: A landowner hires laborers for his vineyard at 6 a.m., promising them that he would pay the usual daily wage. Then he hired more laborers at 9, noon, 3 and 5. When the day's work was over, the landowner paid all the laborers, starting with those who were hired last. Sure enough, they got the daily wage. Those hired first who worked the entire day got exactly the same wage. They weren't pleased.

"Now, when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat' " (verses 10-12). Not fair!

Jesus' parables are meant to shake us up a little bit. There is often a twist that catches us and makes us think. But it's hard to find the logic in this one, much less the good news. What's the point? And what's the point of working all day only to get paid as much as those who came last?

A moment of confession here—I always identify with the laborers who worked all day. I am the conscientious one. I work and pay my taxes and go to church and support public radio and buy Girl Scout cookies. I use my turn signal and allow the car in front of me to merge into traffic. I am kind to animals and never remove the tag on furniture that says "Do Not Remove This Tag."

Are reprobates and slackers really equal to me in God's eyes?

My reaction is quite telling. I am making several assumptions—that I am deserving, that other people are not deserving, and that God operates according to my standards of fairness and justice. It doesn't strike me as contradictory that I regularly confess that "I am captive to sin and cannot free myself" and, at the same time, consider myself a paragon of virtue.

The landowner's words, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" (verse 15) really sting. Yes, I am envious and angry. Jesus' economics don't make sense. This is not the way to run a business.

I take some small comfort in the fact that I am not alone. A lot of us identify with the first laborers and expect extra credit for our good work. If this wasn't true, Jesus would not have told this parable. Funny—I preach about grace and don't like it. Oh, grace for

(Continued on page 3)

**70 Years Blessed...
With Change**
By: Pr. Keith Banwart
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“God’s Work, Our Hands” is every Sunday at St. Matthew’s Church

September 10 we celebrated “God’s Work, Our Hands” by assembling over 127 Lutheran Health Relief School Kits. This has become an annual outreach event that always finds incredible support and generosity from members and friends of the church.

But at St. Matt’s we believe God’s work is always being done...not just on one special Sunday each year. Just look at what we do throughout the year as we share God’s blessings:

*LWR Health Kits LWR School Kits Sock Drive Soles 4 Souls
Hand knit caps, scarves, toiletries for Lutheran Maritime Ministry
Food and Christmas Toys for Burbank Temporary Aid Center
Collection of Education Labels, can pull tabs, bread squares and recyclables*



Thrivent Community Grant turned yarn into treasures

St. Matthew’s Church and Jewel City Knitters of Glendale used a grant from Thrivent Financial to knit caps and scarves for the Lutheran Maritime Ministry (110 caps and scarves) as well as chemo caps, baby blankets, shawls, slippers and garments for the homeless and needy. Over 200 items were created and distributed. The caps and scarves for the international seamen will be combined with our annual drive for toiletries and miscellaneous items and used to create Christmas gift boxes.

Thanks to Judy Dellinger for heading the drive to create Lutheran World Relief School Kits. Judy and her team of helpers were able to put together 127 kits! None of this would have been possible without the incredible generosity of key donors who provided boxes and boxes of items required to complete the kits. The final step of packing each individual kit took place on “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday



With all things so well organized it didn’t take long with a group of dedicated volunteers to assemble the Lutheran World Relief School Kits.



(Continued from page 1) **The laborers in the vineyard**

me is fine, but not for those who don't deserve it.

Oops! That is the point. Grace is not something we deserve or earn or can work for. We are all utterly dependent upon God's mercy, and God is very prodigal with mercy. The grace that all the laborers received—those who worked all day and those who worked for an hour—is that they all got a job, not because of their effort but from the generosity of the landowner. The grace that we receive is that God first loved us.

“While we were still weak ... while we were still sinners ... while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son” ([Romans 5:6-10](#)). Working hard doesn't make God love us more.

Here is the good news in this parable: God has called us into a relationship through Christ, into God's intimate and deep love. If some of us are blessed to realize this our whole lives, give thanks. If some only come to know this at the last hour, rejoice. A graceful response to this grace is that the first are overjoyed for the last.

Charitable Contributions from IRAs

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 first allowed taxpayers age 70 1/2 and older to make tax-free charitable donations directly from their IRAs. By making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from an IRA directly to a qualified charitable organization older IRA owners were allowed to exclude up to \$100,000 annually from gross income. These gifts, also known as “charitable IRA rollovers,” would otherwise be taxable IRA distributions. The law was originally scheduled to expire in 2007, but was extended periodically through 2014 by subsequent legislation and finally made permanent by the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015.



How QCDs work

You must be 70 1/2 or older in order to be eligible to make QCDs. You simply instruct your IRA trustee to make a distribution directly from your IRA (other than SEP and SIMPLE IRAs) to a qualified charity. The distribution must be one that would otherwise be taxable to you. You can exclude up to \$100,000 of QCDs from your gross income each year. And if you file a joint return, your spouse (if 70 1/2 or older) can exclude an additional \$100,000 of QCDs. Note: You don't get to deduct QCDs as a charitable contribution on your federal income tax return—that would be double-dipping.

QCDs count toward satisfying any required minimum distributions (RMDs) that you would otherwise have to receive from your IRA, just as if you had received an actual distribution from the plan. However, distributions that you actually receive from your IRA (including RMDs) and subsequently transfer to a charity cannot qualify as QCDs.

Small task....big rewards

Our miscellaneous item collection will end in October unless a new volunteer can be found to “keep an eye” on it. It's so simple and yet so meaningful. Those soda pull tabs support Ronald McDonald House (children and their families undergoing cancer treatment), current year calendars and greeting cards (Glendale Differently-abled adults), square bread ties (Pilgrim's Place), Box Tops for Education.

The volunteer responsibilities are negligible...just make sure the lobby area for collecting them is neat, collect the over-flow and two or three times a year deliver the booty to a very close resource. This is a heavenly provided opportunity to turn trash to treasure and to be a blessing to someone in need.

If you are interested please contact Sandra or Pastor Banwart in the church office.





COMING SOON



There is something for everyone at St. Matt's...something to do and ways to make a difference in the world we live in.

Do you want to know more about the Bible? Join the Adult Bible Study group every Sunday morning at 9AM. This is a non-threatening but lively group of people who pepper the Pastor with all sorts of theological questions and find that he almost always turns a light on in hearts and minds.

Do you want fellowship? Easy-peasy...just stay for coffee after church in the patio and you'll make a friend...guaranteed! Or join the ladies and men in their monthly evening Bible Study group meetings lead by Pastor Keith. See Dalton Siirila for info about the men's dinner meetings or Judy Dellinger about the women's meetings. Want to feel useful? Bring in recyclables. Join the men on Monday morning as they clean the campus and make repairs.

But mark your calendars right now for these special events!

OCTOBER

10 St. Francis Blessings of the Animals...bring your furry, fuzzy, finny friend and Pastor Keith will give them the Lord's special blessing. And afterward stay for the **Ice Cream Social**.

15 Oktoberfest...yum!

22 Noisy Coin offering for Lutheran Social Services. This is a raucous clanging cacophony of metal on metal as loose coins find their way to the altar in support of those who need our help.

NOVEMBER

Lutheran Maritime Ministry is our designated social outreach for November. This is an annual tradition at St. Matt's that continues to grow each year. Hand knitted caps and scarves and miscellaneous toiletries are collected for the International seamen who spend dangerous days and nights away from their families in poor countries of the world. The items are collected in time to be delivered to the Seamen's Center in Long Beach and turned into special Christmas gift boxes for the seamen.

5 Time Change...Get an extra hour of sleep but don't forget to move the clock back one hour and change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

19 Noisy Coin Offering for Lutheran Social Services

26 Thanksgiving Potluck...St. Matt's has some of the best cooks in the valley. Join us for this holiday meal that reminds us of how blessed and grateful we are to come together to share God's love. Bring your favorite side dish...all are welcome!

DECEMBER

Burbank Temporary Aid Center receives our special attention in December. We collect food all year for BTAC's pantry for the working poor and homeless of Burbank but in December we focus on the children of BTAC's clients. Christmas toys are collected along with wrapping paper so that no one is forgotten by Santa.

Advent series of sermons..."The Long Road to Christmas"

3 Annual Congregation Meeting...'nuf said.

17 Noisy Coin Offering for Lutheran Social Services

24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship 5PM...everyone's favorite...see you there!



Health: *The Fountain of Youth,*

by Beverly Burmeier, *thecostcoconnection*

You can't depend on good genes to carry you past the century mark. Research into the lives of centenarians has revealed that certain lifestyle choices hold the secrets to living into triple digits. How you eat, move your body and deal with stress are all key factors affecting the aging process.

Because Americans are living longer, aging well is an important goal. No one wants to live to 100 if that means sacrificing quality of life.

Everyone has the ability of increase their life span and bring the Fountain of Youth within reach by embracing certain habits. In addition to eating a healthy nutrient rich diet and getting adequate exercise—two of the most important practices for living to 100—the following strategies will put you on a path of living the best life possible.

Cut calories....Eliminating 300 to 500 calories per day—equivalent to skipping dessert or eating a turkey sandwich instead of burger and fries—will slow the aging process. How can that be? One theory is that it decreases a thyroid hormone, which then slows metabolism and tissue aging.

Anti-aging benefit: calorie restricted diets consistently increase life span in animal studies, suggesting that calorie restriction has a protective effect on muscle cells and may help cells better use antioxidants and avoid damage caused by free radicals. And being lean rather than obese protects people from many age related diseases, such as cancer diabetes and heart disease.

Floss every day...Daily flossing reduces the amount of bacteria that cause gum disease, according to a study. Eliminating bacteria will also help keep your arteries healthy. **Anti-aging benefit:** People with high amounts of oral bacteria are more likely to have thickening in their arteries, a sign of heart disease. Also, when oral bacteria enter the bloodstream they often trigger inflammation in arteries, a major risk factor for developing cardiovascular disease.



Sleep the right amount each night...Getting five to six and a half hours of sleep per night can add years to your life, according to research at U.C.San Diego School of Medicine. A study of 444 women concluded that eight hours of sleep wasn't necessary and might even be too much for maximum longevity.

Anti-aging benefit: Sleep allows the body to regulate and heal cells, and older people experience those healing REM phases in about six hours, the study reports.

Correct cataracts...People with cataract-related vision loss have a 40 percent higher long-term mortality risk than those who have cataract surgery to improve their sight. **Anti-aging benefit:** The association between visual impairment and increased mortality among older persons is most likely due to effects of poor vision on completing everyday tasks properly and safely, adhering to medical directives and maintaining good health in general.

Roll with the punches...Centenarians tend not to internalize negative situations or dwell on problems. They keep a positive attitude, have regular social interactions and shed stress easily. They utilize techniques like meditation, deep breathing or exercise programs such as yoga and tai chi to help manage stress and any depressive symptoms. **Anti-aging benefit:** Constant emotional stress puts people at higher risk for memory loss and heart disease. But don't wait until you're a senior citizen to start controlling stress. The effects of long term stressful living can accumulate and affect your quality of life in later years.

November 5...don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and turn your clocks back one hours for that extra hour of sleep. But if you forget you'll be just in time for Adult Bible Study with Pastor Banwart at 9am in the chapel!





St. Matt's Celebrates 70th year



Four confirmands pictured with Bishop Erwin, Pastors Panahon and Banwart.



Bishop Guy Erwin and husband Rob Fynn were guests of honor at luncheon following 70th anniversary service.



The "Children's Choir" sang with poise and soul rending beauty *Amazing Grace—My Chains Are Gone.*"



.....and everyone enjoyed the delicious luncheon!



Matt's Mailbox

Dear Friend,
Thank you for joining our mission and collecting shoes for those in need! We know that this required a lot of effort

and commitment on your part and want to assure you that your work will help improve the lives of many hurting people around the world. It is only because of compassionate people like yourself that we are able to expand our mission and realize our goals, which has always been to simply help those in need.

We are truly blessed to have friends like you. We want to assure you that your donation will enable individuals in the United States and around the world to step out of poverty. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and your personal involvement with our cause is tremendously important. You should be proud of your humanitarian efforts. We invite you to keep our mission in mind, should the opportunity arise to continue to doate to our cause.

Thanks again for helping us with our mission of "Wearing out Poverty."

Contribution Date: 6/2/17

Total Pairs: 75

With deepest thanks,
Buddy Teaster CEO

Dear St. Matthew's Church,
ralphs has supported the communities in Southern California where we operate since 1873 and continues to make our communities a better place to work and live.

Your supporters (4 households) who shopped at Ralphs between 3/1/2017 and 5/31/2017 have contributed to your \$31.26 total donation.

Thank you for your continued support of our local Ralphs store.

Dear St. Matthew's Church,
Thank you for your gift to the work of Lutheran Bible Translators through Southwestern California Synod ELCA in the amount of \$216. for 442 Federwitz P. We appreciate your heart for the Bibleless people of the world and your gift will help them to have God's word in their hands and in their heart.

God's blessings, Joe Dunsey,
ChiefFinancial Officer

Elsie Ford, RN announces her retirement

Elsie Ford, RN the Health Ministries of the Foothills (HMF) Parish Nurse has announced her retirement as of August 18, 2017. She has been the Parish Nurse for many years.

"I'm saddened that Elsie will be leaving us," said HMF President Pastor Keith G. Banwart, Jr. "Elsie has served the ministry and broader foothill community in a dedicated, loving and caring manner. She has helped hundreds of people, and she will be greatly missed."

Pastor Banwart announced that the HMF leadership and board will now set about the task of finding a new Parish Nurse to continue serving the needs of the member congregations and community.

"I have so enjoyed being a part of this vital ministry in our communities," commented Ford. "Serving those who are part of the member congregations as well as the broader community has been a real joy!"

Matt's Mailbox continued

...and a final note from the editor:

Dear St. Matthew's Family,
I hate the long farewells, the weepy good byes and all the drama associated with taking leave from those you love and yet the time has come for me to do just that. I leave you at the end of October with relief that the 110 freeway will no longer impede me but with sorrow that I will no longer be seeing you every Sunday.

I love you all so much and have been blessed for so many years with your friendship, wisdom and support. Always you will be in my heart as I hope I will be in yours.

Please continue to reach out with your traditional kindness and generosity to those of our world, country and community in need.

And finally, thank you Pastor Keith for allowing me to "play" in the church office these many years and for your gentle but solid support and leadership.

Thank you all, each and every one of you...I miss you already!

Sandra Ogden



October, November, December Service Assistants

Ushers & Greeters

10/1 Sandra/Ramona
 10/8 Marv/Roberto
 10/16 Dalton/Serj
 10/22 Rein/Carolyn
 10/29 Sandra/Ramona
 11/5 Marv/Roberto
 11/12 Dalton/Serj
 11/19 Rein/Carolyn
 11/26 Sandra/Ramona
 12/3 Marv/Roberto
 12/10 Dalton/Serj
 12/17 Rein/Carolyn
 12/24 Roberto/Craig
 12/31 Rein/Carolyn

Altar Guild

10/1 Pat (GS)
 10/8 Carolyn (GS)
 10/15 Barbara (GS)
 10/22 Ramona (Red)
 10/29 Carolyn (White)
 11/5 Pat (GS)
 11/12 Carolyn (White)
 11/19 Barbara (White)
 11/26 Ramona (White)
 12/3 Barbara (Blue)
 12/10 Ramona (Blue)
 12/17 Judy (Blue)
 12/24 Carolyn (Blue)
 12/31 Ramona (Ordinary)

12/24 Bob T.
 12/31 Dalton

Counters

10/1 Karen/Janet
 10/8 Carolyn/Marv
 10/15 Rajeshh/Bob
 10/22 Judy/Priya
 10/29 Karen/Carolyn
 11/5 Janet/Priya
 11/12 Carolyn/Rajeshh
 11/19 Judy/Karen
 11/26 Marv/Bob
 12/3 Carolyn/Rajeshh
 12/10 Judy/Priya
 12/17 Marv/Bob
 12/24 Janet/Karen
 12/31 Janet/Judy

Communion Assistant

10/1 Adam
 10/8 Dalton
 10/15 Mark
 10/22 Mark
 10/29 Sandra
 11/5 Dalton
 11/12 Karen
 11/19 Adam
 11/26 Mark
 12/3 Dalton
 12/10 Adam
 12/17 Mark

Acolyte

Daniel



Sound Engineer

Marv

October:

Bob B.

November:

Dalton

December:

Carolyn



Birthdays and Anniversaries in October, November December

Birthdays:

10/1 June Kahler	11/4 James Aasen	12/6 Karen Deb
10/1 Priya Unni Narayana	11/7 Aiden Kline	12/6 Gabrielle Thompson
10/1 Harrison Rothacher	11/7 Jazel C.Provencher	12/10 Niranjala Bibile
10/2 Elsie Ford	11/8 Richard Ainsworth	12/13 Jannet Provencher
10/3 Natalie Cruz	11/11 Lisa Murray	12/14 Rebecca Griffio-Barn.
10/8 Lexeniel Tapongot	11/12 Rein DeBoer	12/14 Kenneth Afalla
10/9 Ramona Camp	11/13 Gary Deem	12/14 Paul Federwitz
10/10 Carol Camp	11/19 Alethea Pedersen	12/16 Judy Dellinger
10/13 Anjali Gomez	11/21 Jessica Murray	12/18 June Kline
10/16 Carmen Manfredi	11/23 Melissa Bridge	12/19 Pat Schonerock
10/17 Efren Soriano	11/23 Robert Maltez	12/21 Leau F. Tapongot
10/20 Ana Maltez	11/24 Elijah Tualla	12/22 Mark Schoenrock
10/21 Craig Murray	11/27 Winston Ibay	12/26 Luz Calibo, Jr.
10/24 Elizabeth Kline	11/30 Cirelyn San Pedro	12/27 Nicholas Lipari
10/26 Anthony Austria		12/28 Lauren Tramell
10/26 Madella Siirila		

Anniversaries:

10/18 Nick & Becky Griffio-Barnwell
 10/22 Bruce & Janet Whitehead
 10/24 Jack & Julie Black
 11/12 Steve & Ana Treece
 11/21 Bob & Trina Tadena
 11/28 Rein & Leora DeBoer
 12/1 Gladys & Scott Cappiello
 12/18 Fe & Efren Soriano
 12/28 Matt & Mark Parsons-Woolf





All Saint's Sunday, November 5

On All Saint's Sunday the Christian Church traditionally remembers those who have died in faith. We will gather to remember our Faithful Departed during a special 10AM worship service. If you desire to have a loved one remembered that day with prayer and the lighting of a candle, please fill out this form and return it no later than Sunday, October 29. You may attach a suggested \$5 donation for each person to be remembered. May God bless your generosity.

Name.....

Envelope #.....

Name of person(s) to be remembered.....

.....
.....
.....

Rest eternal grant them, O God, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in, and commitment to, Christ and his Church, I /we plan to:

TAKE ONE STEP UP IN MY/OUR GIVING FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

[Please Check One:]

STEP UP BEYOND TITHING "My/Our desire is to do more than God's minimum."

STEP UP TO TITHING "I/We will give 10% of my/our income to God's work."

STEP UP TOWARD TITHING "I am not/We are not (a) tither/tithers yet, but I/we will move toward that goal."

ESTIMATE OF GIVING

Name[s]: _____

Address: _____

So that others may know God's love, I/we plan to offer:

\$ _____ each week for mission through the congregation [current fund];

\$ _____ a week for the mission of the greater Church [mission support/benevolence];

\$ _____ a week for the building improvement fund.

Yes No: This is an increase over last year.

ESTIMATE OF GIVING

I/we commit my/our entire life in service to Christ, and therefore will offer _____% of my/our annual income.

Of this percentage, I/we will offer:

\$ _____ a week for mission through the congregation [current fund];

\$ _____ a week for the mission of the greater Church [mission support/benevolence];

\$ _____ a week for the building improvement fund.

I understand that this commitment may be revise if necessary.

Keep this portion of the card as a reminder of your plan for giving.



HUMOR

TWO PRAWNS

Far away in the tropical waters of the Coral Sea , two prawns were swimming around. One called Justin and the other called Christian.

The prawns were constantly being harassed and threatened by sharks that inhabited the area. Finally one day Justin said to Christian, 'I'm fed up with being a prawn; I wish I was a shark, and then I wouldn't have any worries about being eaten.'

A large mysterious cod appeared and said, 'Your wish is granted' Lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark.

Horrified, Christian immediately swam away, afraid of being eaten by his old mate. Time passed (as it does) and Justin found life as a shark boring and lonely. All his old mates simply swam away whenever he came close to them. Justin began to realize that his new menacing appearance was the cause of his sad plight. While swimming alone one day he saw the mysterious cod again and he thought perhaps the mysterious fish could change him back into a prawn.

He approached the cod and begged to be changed back, and, lo and behold, he found himself turned back into a prawn.

With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes Justin swam back to his friends and bought them all a cocktail. (The punch line does not involve a prawn cocktail - it's much worse).

Looking around the gathering at the reef he realized he couldn't see his old pal. 'Where's Christian?' he asked.

'He's at home, still distraught that his best friend changed sides to the enemy & became a shark', came the reply. Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, he set off to Christian's abode. As he opened the coral gate, memories came flooding back.

He banged on the door and shouted, 'It's me, Justin, your old friend, come out and see me again.'

Christian replied, 'No way man, you'll eat me. You're now a shark, the enemy, and I'll not be tricked into being your dinner.'

Justin cried back 'No, I'm not. That was the old me. I've changed.'

'I've found Cod. I'm a Prawn again Christian'



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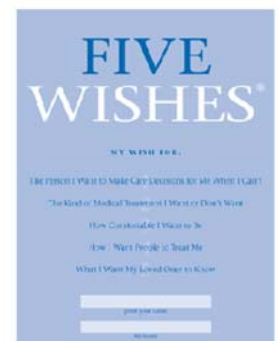
It's Time to Have *The Talk*

More than 90% of people think it's important to talk to their loved ones about their wishes for end-of-life care. Less than 30% of people have had that conversation. Chances are you know someone who has had to make a heart-wrenching decision about a loved one's healthcare. Perhaps you've been in that situation with a parent or spouse. Often we're called to make these decisions when we are emotionally overwhelmed, exhausted and grief-stricken.

We all agree it's important to make your healthcare wishes known so that your loved ones are not put into this position. And yet, it's so easy to put it off. Many people find it helpful to talk to their doctors when filling out an advance directive. Your doctor can bring up issues that you may not have thought of. It's also important to choose someone you trust to make decisions and speak for you if you are ever unable to speak for yourself.

For more information on advance care planning, go to:

www.agingwithdignity.org
www.theconversationproject.org
www.prepareforyourcare.org





Ten Guidelines From God

Effective Immediately, please be aware that there are changes YOU need to make in YOUR life. These changes need to be completed in order that I may fulfill My promises to you to grant you peace, joy and happiness in this life. I apologize for any inconvenience, but after all that I am doing, this seems very little to ask of you. Please, follow these 10 guidelines

QUIT WORRYING:

Life has dealt you a blow and all you do is sit and worry. Have you forgotten that I am here to take all your burdens and carry them for you? Or do you just enjoy fretting over every little thing that comes your way?

PUT IT ON THE LIST:

Something needs done or taken care of. Put it on the list. No, not YOUR list. Put it on MY to-do-list. Let ME be the one to take care of the problem. I can't help you until you turn it over to Me. And although My to-do-list is long, I am after all... God. I can take care of anything you put into My hands. In fact, if the truth were ever really known, I take care of a lot of things for you that you never even realize.

TRUST ME:

Once you've given your burdens to Me, quit trying to take them back. Trust in Me. Have the faith that I will take care of all your needs, your problems and your trials. Problems with the kids? Put them on My list. Problem with finances? Put it on My list. Problems with your emotional roller coaster? For My sake, put it on My list. I want to help you.

All you have to do is ask.

LEAVE IT ALONE:

Don't wake up one morning and say, "Well, I'm feeling much stronger now, I think I can handle it from here." Why do you think you are feeling stronger now? It's simple. You gave Me your burdens and I'm taking care of them. I also renew your strength and cover you in my peace. Don't you know that if I give you these problems back, you will be right back where you started? Leave them with Me and forget about them. Just let Me do my job.

TALK TO ME:

I want you to forget a lot of things. Forget what was making you crazy. Forget the worry and the fretting because you know I'm in control. But there's one thing I pray you never forget. Please, don't forget to talk to Me - OFTEN! I love YOU! I want to hear your voice. I want you to include Me in on the things going on in your life. I want to hear you talk about your friends and family. Prayer is simply you having a conversation with Me.

I want to be your dearest friend.

6. HAVE FAITH:

I see a lot of things from up here that you can't see from where you are. Have faith in Me that I know what I'm doing. Trust Me; you wouldn't want the view from My eyes. I will continue to care for you, watch over you, and meet your needs. You only have to trust Me. Although I have a much bigger task than you, it seems as if you have so much trouble just doing your simple part. How hard can trust be?

SHARE:

You were taught to share when you were only two years old. When did you forget? That rule still applies. Share with those who are less fortunate than you. Share your joy with those who need encouragement. Share your laughter with those who haven't heard any in such a long time. Share your tears with those who have forgotten how to cry. Share your faith with those who have none.

BE PATIENT:

I managed to fix it so in just one lifetime you could have so many diverse experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs many times, learn many trades, travel to so many places, meet thousands of people, and experience so much. How can you be so impatient then when it takes Me a little longer than you expect to handle something on My to-do-list? Trust in My timing, for My timing is perfect. Just because I created the entire universe in only six days, everyone thinks I should always rush, rush, rush.

BE KIND:

Be kind to others, for I love them just as much as I love you. They may not dress like you, or talk like you, or live the same way you do, but I still love you all. Please try to get along, for My sake. I created each of you different in some way. It would be too boring if you were all identical. Please, know I love each of your differences.

LOVE YOURSELF:

As much as I love you, how can you not love yourself? You were created by me for one reason only to be loved, and to love in return. I am a God of Love. Love Me. Love your neighbors. But also love yourself. It makes My heart ache when I see you so angry with yourself when things go wrong. You are very precious to me. Don't ever forget.....



Prayer Calendar: October, November, December

1



- 1 June Kahler
- 2 Priya Narayanan Unni
- 3 Harrison Rothacher
- 4 Chris Pedersen.
- 5 Presiding Bishop Eaton
- 6 Natalie Cruz
- 7 Health Ministry of Foothills
- 8 Lexeniel tapongot
- 9 Ramona Camp
- 10 Carol Camp
- 11 Native American Missions
- 12 So. Cal. Lutherans Concerned
- 13 Anjali Gomez
- 14 Lutheran Social Services
- 15 Pac. Lutheran Theological Seminary
- 16 Carmen Manfredi
- 17 Efren Soriano
- 18 Nick & Becky Griffo-Barnwell
- 19 Luth. Assoc. Missionary Pilots
- 20 Ana Maltez
- 21 Craig Murray
- 22 Bruce & Janet Whitehead
- 23 Jack & Julie Black
- 24 Elizabeth Kline
- 25 Madella Siirila
- 26 Anthony Austria
- 27 Filipino Ministry
- 28 Lutheran Maritime Ministry
- 29 Bishop Erwin
- 30 English Ministry
- 31 Lutheran World Federation

- 1 Faithful Departed
- 2 President Trump
- 3 Lutheran Maritime Ministry
- 4 James Aasen
- 5 Elsie ford
- 6 Jazel Caren Provencher
- 7 Aiden Kline
- 8 Rick Ainsworth
- 9 Governor Brown
- 10 Steve & Ana Treece
- 11 Lisa Murray
- 12 Rein DeBoer
- 13 Gary Deem
- 14 Lutheran Social Services
- 15 Presiding Bishop Eaton
- 16 California Lutheran University
- 17 United Nations
- 18 Burbank Temporary Aid Center
- 19 Alethea Pedersen
- 20 Pr. Bob & Trina Tadena
- 21 Jessica Murray
- 22 Robert Maltez
- 23 Melissa Bridge
- 24 Elijah Tualla
- 25 Interfaith Refugee Immigration Service
- 26 Bishop Erwin
- 27 Winston Ibay
- 28 Rein & Leora DeBoer
- 29 Health Ministry of Foothills
- 30 Cirelyn San Pedro

December

- 1 U.S. Congress
- 2 California Assembly
- 3 Presiding Bishop Eaton
- 4 Burbank Temporary Aid Center
- 5 Gabrielle Thompson
- 6 Karen Deb
- 7 Scott & Gladys Cappiello
- 8 Lutheran World Relief
- 9 Mr. & Mrs. Espiritu
- 10 Niranjala Bibile

- 11 interfaith Immig/Refugee Svc
- 12 Becky Griffo-Barnwell
- 13 Jannet Jazel Provencher
- 14 Kenneth Afalla
- 15 Paul Federwitz
- 16 Judy Dellinger
- 17 Fe & Efren Soriano
- 18 June Kline
- 19 Pat Schoenrock
- 20 Lutheran Social Services

- 21 Leau Feen Tapongot
- 22 Mark Schoenrock
- 23 Lutheran Maritime Ministry
- 24 Persecuted Christians
- 25 Peace on Earth
- 26 Luz Calibo, Jr.
- 27 Wendy Cristiano
- 28 Nicholar Lipari
- 29 Lauren Trammell
- 30 Matt & Mark Parsons-Woolf
- 31 Bishop Erwin.



OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>St. Francis' Sunday</i> 9:00 AM English Bible Class/English Choir 10:00 AM ENGLISH WORSHIP/ANIMAL BLESSING 11:00 AM Ice Cream Social 12:30 PM FILIPINO WORSHIP 2:00 PM Filipino Bible Study 3:00 PM Armenian Worship	2 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast and Work-Morning 7:00 PM Armenian Choir & Youth	3	4 <i>Francis of Assisi/Theodor Fiedler</i> 10:30 AM School Chapel	5 7:30 PM English Choir	6 <i>William Tyndale</i> 7:00 PM Armenian Prayer	7 <i>Henry M. Muhlenberg</i> 8:00 AM Organ Rehearsal 2:00 PM Filipino Choir
8 <i>Pericost 18</i> 9:00 AM English Bible Class/English Choir 10:00 AM ENGLISH WORSHIP 12:30 PM FILIPINO WORSHIP 2:00 PM Filipino Bible Study 3:00 PM Armenian Worship	9 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast and Work-Morning 7:00 PM Armenian Choir & Youth	10 <i>Massie L. Kennard</i>	11	12 7:30 PM English Choir	13 7:00 PM Armenian Prayer	14 8:00 AM Organ Rehearsal 1:00 PM Set Up for Oktoberfest 2:00 PM Filipino Choir
15 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE <i>Noisy Offering Sunday - Lutheran Social Services</i> <i>Oktoberfest Sunday</i> <i>Teresa of Avila</i> 9:00 AM English Bible Class/English Choir 10:00 AM ENGLISH WORSHIP 11:00 AM OKTOBERFEST LUNCHEON 12:30 PM FILIPINO WORSHIP 2:00 PM Filipino Bible Study 3:00 PM Armenian Worship	16 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast and Work-Morning 7:00 PM Armenian Choir & Youth	17 <i>Ignatius</i> 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	18 <i>St. Luke's Day</i> 10:30 AM School Chapel	19 6:15 PM Churchmen's Dinner 7:30 PM English Choir 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	20 7:00 PM Armenian Prayer	21 8:00 AM Organ Rehearsal 2:00 PM Filipino Choir
22 <i>Pericost 20</i> 9:00 AM English Bible Class/English Choir 10:00 AM ENGLISH WORSHIP 11:15 AM Stewardship Committee 12:30 PM FILIPINO WORSHIP 2:00 PM Filipino Bible Study 3:00 PM Armenian Worship	23 Fall Pastors Conference <i>James of Jerusalem</i> 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast and Work-Morning 7:00 PM Armenian Choir & Youth	24 Fall Pastors Conference	25 Fall Pastors Conference 10:30 AM School Chapel	26 Fall Pastors Conference <i>P. Nicolai, J. Heermann, P. Gerhard</i> 7:30 PM English Choir	27 7:00 PM Armenian Prayer	28 <i>Sts. Simon & Jude Day</i> 8:00 AM Organ Rehearsal 2:00 PM Filipino Choir
29 <i>Reformation Sunday - 500th Anniversary of Protestant Reformation</i> 9:00 AM English Bible Class/English Choir 10:00 AM ENGLISH WORSHIP 11:15 AM Congregation Council 12:30 PM FILIPINO WORSHIP 2:00 PM Filipino Bible Study 3:00 PM Armenian Worship	30 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast and Work-Morning 7:00 PM Armenian Choir & Youth	31 <i>All Hallows' Eve/Reformation Day</i>	1 <i>All Saints' Day</i> 10:30 AM School Chapel	2 7:30 PM English Choir	3 <i>Martin de Porres</i> 7:00 PM Armenian Prayer	4 8:00 AM Organ Rehearsal 2:00 PM Filipino Choir



70 Years Blessed... With Change

by: Pastor K.G. Banwart

On Sunday September 17th, St. Matthew's celebrated 70 years of Making Christ Known in Burbank/Glendale and around the world under the theme: 70 Years Blessed! What a joyous occasion it was with an Episcopal Visitation by The Rt. Rev. R. Guy Erwin, our Bishop, an incredible offering of uplifting music featuring musicians from both our 10AM and 1230PM services, and the Affirmation of Baptism of four fine young men who now become full Voting Members of our congregation. Truly, St. Matthew's, has been blessed!

Blessed... with Change... In the modern world, and especially in Greater Los Angeles, there can be no such thing as a mere static institution. Every institution, religious or secular, must constantly change and adapt to survive. St. Matthew's is no different.

From humble beginnings in the chapel at Grandview Cemetery, to the "first unit" (as the Mission Boards used to call them), to the construction of the current magnificent sanctuary, the worship space has changed as has what has gone on inside. While the essence of the historic liturgy of the Western Church has remained the spine running throughout our worship life together, the tunes, the phraseology, the rhythms, etc. have changed over time as has the language and music of the culture/s around us. God's Word Is Our Great Heritage, and the truths of that word are unchanging; however, the methods with which they are presented and communicated change from generation to generation – and nowadays even faster than that.

In keeping with that reality, this issue of *The Messenger* shall be the last print edition of our congregation's newsletter. Beginning the first of the year, St. Matthew's, like almost every congregation around us, will be transitioning to a weekly email format. Each week, those on our email list will receive the highlights from the weekly bulletin (including upcoming events) on their electronic device/s. Not only will this enable the congregation to stay connected in a far more timely manner than a quarterly newsletter, but it will also represent a dramatic savings to the congregation in terms of finances, staffing, and our carbon footprint. ***If you are not sure if the Church Office has your current email address, please send it ASAP to: stmatthewselca@hotmail.com.*** While at first this transition might seem a tad confusing, please know that our congregation is actually quite "behind the curve" in making this change as compared to the other congregations in our area. As 2018 approaches, we simply can no longer deny that it is nearly impossible in a world moving so quickly to get timely news out in a traditional print fashion – and it is truly becoming cost prohibitive even to try. I think that if we all give it a chance, we will come to find the new electronic format much more informative and helpful in our life together.

Other changes will be coming over the next weeks and months as well here at St. Matthew's, but then again, they always have and they always will. As the great hymnwriter Fred Pratt Green puts it so beautifully:

*The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.*

70 Years Blessed... With Change... As the holiday season soon comes upon us, my prayer is that each and every one of us, the people of God gathered at St. Matthew's Church, will continue to "claim and test (our) heritage," knowing that, even in the midst of change, our bonds with our Savior Jesus, and with our brothers and sisters in Christ, remain strong and secure whether we are near or far. May God bless you all throughout the remainder of 2017 and may you each have a truly Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Peace,
Pr. Keith Banwart



Luther at the manger

“He lies in the manger. Look there so that you may always be certain that nothing in all the world except Christ is to be preached. What else is the manger except the gathering of the Christian people in church for the sermon? We are the animals at this manger where Christ is set before us and from it we ought to feed our souls, that is, lead them to the sermon. Whoever goes to listen to a sermon, goes to this manger. Yes, but sermons must be about Christ. For not all mangers contain Christ, and neither do all sermons teach the faith. There was, to be sure, only one manger in Bethlehem in which this treasure lay; in addition, it was an empty and despised manger in which formerly there was no fodder. Consequently the preaching of the gospel is free of all other things; it has and teaches nothing more than Christ.”

“Now each person should compare himself with the gospel and should observe how near or how far from Christ he is and how he stands in the matters of faith and love. There are many who become inflamed with imagined devotion when they hear that Christ suffered such poverty. They almost become angry with the citizens of Bethlehem. They rebuke their blindness and ingratitude, supposing that if they had been there, they would have rendered outstanding service to the Lord and his mother, and that they would not have allowed him to have such miserable treatment. But they do not look right next to themselves to see how many of their immediate neighbors there are who really need their help, but whom they neglect and allow to remain exactly as they are. Who is there on earth who does not have around him poor, miserable, sick erring, or sinful people? Why then does he not exercise his love right here? It is a deceitful fabrication for you to thin you would have done many good things for Christ if you do not do it for these people....you do not pay attention to anything and you do not recognize your Lord in your neighbor. You do not do to him as He has done to you. Therefore God lets you become blind...so that you spend for wood and stone, paper and wax, and thus lose that with which you might have been able to help your neighbor.”

We gather again this Christmas at the manger of Christ—we come to church to hear the Word of God and to feed our souls on Christ whom we find in the sermon, as Luther reminds us. What about the people of Botswana? Some of them will be able to gather at the manger of Christ and hear about Him in the sermons at their service, thanks to missionaries but most will not be able to gather at such a manger because there is no one to preach to them about Jesus.

Decorating for Christmas

When you decorate your home for Christmas consider ways that you can highlight your Christian decorations more prominently by spotlighting your nativity scene or hanging Christ-centered ornaments on your Christmas tree.

As you wrap gifts, add a gift tag with a Bible verse on it or a personal message of love. Reminding each other why we give helps to turn us away from the tendency towards commercialism in our society

Set aside time each day of Advent to read Scripture and pray. Slow down to simply be with God and God's Word.

Use these suggested readings for Advent if you wish:

Matthew 1:18-25	Matthew 3:1-12	Lue 1:26-56	John 1:1-18	1 John 1:5-7	1 John 4:7-10
Isaiah 40:1-5	Isaiah 11:1-6	Isaiah 52:7-10	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Zephaniah 3:14-17	
Hebrews 1:1-4					



**ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH
A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLES**

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 10:00 AM English Worship (with Children's Church)
 - 12:30 PM Filipino Worship
 - 1:30 PM Filipino Bible Study
 - 3:00 PM Armenian Worship
-

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Like us on Facebook:
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