



From the Pastor's Desk...

"Our particular way of participating in Christ's Church as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is rooted in distinctive gifts visible in our theology • practice • ecclesiology • legacy. Claiming these gifts helps us recognize how God uses our distinctiveness to form and re-form us for partnership in ministry and witness." Bishop Jim Gonia

At the synod assembly I had the opportunity to share how our congregation has found transformation within the definition of Bishop Gonia's *Claiming Our Gifts*. Some of you have already heard this at various places within the life of our congregation but here it is for those who have missed it.

As a congregation undergoing redevelopment St. Matthews in Taylorsville Utah, we get what it means to be transformed. So, when Bishop Gonia offered to do his presentation on *Sharing Our Gifts* we readily accepted the invitation. Claiming our gifts brought us an understanding of our experience.

- **Theology** – Thru the gift of grace we were given the opportunity to live another day. We no longer focused on keeping the lights on but were transformed to be the Light of Christ in our community. We can freely share that gift of God's unconditional love with folks who's lifelong belief has been that God is only accessible through obedience to the church and its teachings, or to those who don't believe they are worthy of God's gracious love in a world who judges them as unworthy. We proudly wear our crosses everywhere in a community that rejects the cross as the place where Jesus meets



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us in the deepest shadows of life

- **Practice** – Our ritual experiences with water and wine are counter cultural in Utah. There is nothing like hearing our confession of faith echoing in the darkness the Easter Vigil as the gathered community surrounds the newly baptized with love and acceptance. There is also nothing like a public blessing our neighbors' animals or bringing donuts and thank you cards to our first responders. Our practice in ritual and service transform lives.
- **Ecclesiology** - *Church Better Together* means a lot to us in Utah, whereas you might have guessed, Lutherans are in the minority. We depend on our relationships with our ecumenical siblings in Christ and even some that we don't have an official agreement with. There is nothing like seeing the frozen chosen sing with a Baptist gospel choir to raise money for those in need, now that's transformation.
- **Legacy** – Our small congregation on the west side of the Great Salt Lake valley is home to three other congregations, two Spanish speaking ones and one Samoan.

Welcoming these congregations into space that we only steward and not "own" has been transformational for us. Finally, St. Matthews finds comfort that we are connected to a 500 + year heritage that has not always been perfect but is willing to continue reforming and reshaping who we are as children of God.

For a brief description of Claiming Our Gifts, go to the Rocky Mountain Synod website or click on the link below.

https://www.rmselfca.org/sites/rmselfca.org/files/media/claiming_our_gifts_handout.pdf

Shalom.

Pastor Christine

Letter from the Council President...

"We are called to proclaim God's grace by sharing the story of Jesus to bring light, hope and healing to the world."

June 2019 - A letter to the congregation of St. Matthews

St. Matthews Church Council met on Tuesday May 14th. The Council Meeting Agenda and meeting minutes are posted on the board in the Hallway. Please contact any council member if you have any questions. Council Agenda included a generous gift from Iglesia Unida Evangelica Pentecostal Church. This congregation is one of the three congregations meeting at St. Matthews. They have approximately 200 chairs from their previous congregation in Colorado. The chairs are in storage and they have offered to donate them to St. Matthews. After a discussion on the status of our current chairs and the opportunity of renewing our sanctuary with newer chairs a motion was approved to accept the gift and replace the chairs in the sanctuary.

Pastor Christine was happy to report to Council that St. Matthews was acknowledged twice during the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly. First when Pastor was asked to reflect on what has inspired St. Matthews to increase our giving. Pastor also presented how "*Claiming Our Gifts*" presentation affected our church. How wonderful that our small congregation is being asked to share with Synod the exciting work we are doing at St. Matthews!

Council approved those who will be on the ballot for Council positions at the Congregation meeting on May 19th. Frank Cordova, Sam Johnson, Marvin May and Amanda Ventura have all agreed to serve another two year term on council. They were approved at the Congregational meeting and along with Leandra Ludlum, Harlan Bengtson, Tracy Dewey and Erich Thaemert will be your 2019/2020 Church Council. Please keep them all in your prayers as they serve and meet the business needs of the church. Unfortunately there will be one open spot on council as the Nominating Task Force was unable to present another person to fill one position.

Peace,

We are Christ Church, Better Together!

Mary Kay Arnold

Jesus said "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." - John 14:27



June Newsletter Articles:



It's Easy, Safe & Convenient!

Go to St. Matthew's Website.

Click on the **BLUE** donation button.

St. Matthew's has chosen a new provider, named Tithe.ly, to manage its online giving. Make one-time donations or set-up a giving schedule that meets your needs. Tithe.ly will do the work for you, making your giving easy and convenient. If you have any questions please check with Tracy Dewey on the Stewardship Team.



The Stewardship team is at it again. We are asking the various ministries to fill out a survey for us to check how we did and where we can improve. Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting the ministry of St. Matthew's.

Stewardship for All Seasons gave us some new perspectives and skills to add to our stewardship toolbox this past year, and we are beginning to envision the next annual appeal.

If you forgot to submit a statement of intent, it isn't too late. If you would like to know more about how to do online giving, ask us about signing up with Tithe.ly.

Elizabeth Hawke
Stewardship Team Lead



How are we perceived by others?

What do people think when they enter the doors of St. Matthew's? What do they see first? Our greeters are there, but are they talking to friends or focused on visitors? Our greeters respond to questions, ask visitors to sign the guest book and ensure that people are at ease when they enter the sanctuary. While the greeters are on the front line they certainly are not the only ones responsible to ensure we are a welcoming church.

This past week e-Connections from the Rocky Mountain Synod contained an article about the perceptions of people in everyday situations. Judging and seeing people from a distance may not be who they really are. Below is a link to an audio presentation by Barbara Berry-Bailey that illustrates our perceptions may be wrong and the way those perceptions may impact our ability to build a relationship with others. Click on the link provided to hear the presentation.

<http://www.rmselca.org/act4rms>

Are we open and welcoming in a way that will foster building a relationship with others from our community?

Jackie Percy
Hospitality Ministry



St. Matthew's Newsletter

Our newsletter has more information about the life of the congregation that you don't want to miss. If you are not getting the newsletter, please contact Amanda Ventura at office@stmatthewsut.org to get your name added to the list.



Labyrinth Dedication

If you haven't been following the progress on the Labyrinth check out St. Matthew's Facebook page. Brian Schuster has kept us up to date each week with some beautiful pictures like the one here. Thanks to everyone who has donated their time, treasure and talents to this wonderful gift for the community of Taylorsville. While at this time of publication the date of the dedication has yet to be determined, we will let everyone know via Facebook. Again, thanks to everyone, especially Liz Hawke, who had the vision for the labyrinth.



St. Matthew's Breakfast Club - Join us for breakfast and conversation with friends. We meet every other Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. at Dee's Restaurant on 4500 South and Redwood Road.

It's a great time to get acquainted and build relationships with each other. Stop by for breakfast we have a great time. Our next breakfast will be on **June 4th** with the following breakfast on **June 18th**.

Coming Up:



Yard Sale – will be held on **Saturday, June 1st**. Bring your donations before June 1st and take them downstairs to the basement, please do not leave them in the library or other places around the church. If you have large items that need picking up, contact Ronda Schuster or Karla Stoker. If you need a receipt for your donation, please talk with Karla Stoker. Volunteers are needed to help before, during, and after the yard sale.



Vacation Bible School – will take place between Friday, July 19th to Sunday July 21st. Registration will take place on **Saturday, June 1st**.



It's BBQ Time! – Faith Formation is hosting this annual BBQ event on **Sunday, June 2nd** and are looking for volunteers to help with a variety of chores. Sing-up sheets will be available for potluck items.



Leadership Training

Training will be held on **Saturday, June 15th** from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. This is for all council members and all ministry team leaders.



10 Week Summer Sermon Series

Will take place between **June 23rd through August 25th**.

This summer we are trying something new and different. For the most part, the order of worship will be familiar. What will change is how we engage with hearing the stories of people God sees fit to call into the Lord's service. We may use drama, art, or music to explore the bible stories that may or may not be familiar.

In brushing up on these stories, we will encounter how our lives intersect with God's calling for us. We will be looking for volunteers to help "tell the stories" in imaginative and creative ways. There will be a "reference" timeline on the wall of the sanctuary and more. God does choose the unlikely, folks from the margins, people like us and definitely people we would not choose. God chooses the young and the old, men and women, traitors, murderers, scoundrels and risk takers. The five women and five men that we will rediscover are Jacob, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Samuel, David, Jonah, Jeremiah, Esther, and Lydia. This will be an exciting time to be at church together learning more about our biblical heritage.

Taylorville DAYZZ

Mark your calendars – the Faith Formation and Outreach Ministries will need volunteers for the parking lot fundraiser and more on **June 27th – 29th**.

Picture Day will be held before and after worship on June 30th.



Say Cheese!

Brian Schuster will be taking pictures of individuals or families to update the church directory. Several ministries have not had their pictures taken either, so be sure to show up for this important opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Schuster for more information.



**Fighting poverty and
building community.**

Crossroads Urban Center's Meet the Candidates Barbecue will be held on **July 10th** at Liberty Park from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Every year Crossroads Urban Center organizes a barbecue for clients, volunteers, supporters and friends and invites candidates and elected officials to come learn more about hunger and poverty in our community. Everyone is welcome to attend this fun, free event. For more information contact Bill Tibbitts at Crossroads Urban Center, (801) 364-7765 ext. 107.



Communications Ministry "Help Desk"

It is our commitment at St. Matthew's to find ways that reduce our carbon footprint. We have had a lot of success with our E-Pew bulletins over the past few years and would like more people to use their devices during worship.

The Communications Help Desk is happening again on **July 14th** during the Hospitality Hour. Bring your tablets, kindles, or smart phones to get the help you need. Amanda Ventura, Brian Schuster, & Mike Stoker will be available to help with the set up and teach folks how to access the E-Pew bulletin and more.

The use of electronic devices has significantly reduced our use of paper, ink, and more importantly time. It takes time for Amanda Ventura, our office volunteer, to print the bulletins each week. It takes time for our volunteers to assemble bulletins each week. Help us to be the best stewards of creation that we can be by learning how and make use of the technology we have already today.

Outreach Ministry:



Thanks for participating in the Chick Sale – all proceeds benefit the ELCA World Hunger Campaign. We solve over **144 chicks**, way to go.

Food Drive



Summer Food Drive – starts in June and runs through the end of August. Last year our congregation donated over **700 pounds** of food! Please help us beat last year's total!

Please leave non-perishable food items in front of the altar in the sanctuary. The next Outreach Ministry Meeting will be held on June 10th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome! If you have any questions regarding the Outreach Ministry, please contact Jenny Cox or anyone on the team.



We will be looking for bottled water donations for the Taylorsville Dayzz Parade between **June 27th – 29th**, and volunteers to pass them out to the parade participants.

Talk to anyone on the Outreach Team: Frank Cordova, Jenny Cox, Mary Wimmer, Cindy Becker or Jacki Percy.



ELCA World Hunger

Don't forget to fill the barns and piggy banks for ELCA World Hunger. It has been our tradition for the last few years to collect coins throughout the summer and bring the banks filled to the brim on Rally Sunday. Donations are distributed throughout the world, even here in the U.S. to help families become more sustainable. To see more about the World Hunger organization and the great work that it does, go to the ELCA website link below. Please remember to put your name on the bank and bring them back on or before **Sunday, September 8th**.

Church Calendars:



June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Yard Sale 8a-5p
Chick Sale Ends 2 Worship 10a Church BBQ 11:30a	3 Prayer Shawl Min. 2p Office Hrs. 3-8:30p Constitution 6:30p	Min & Council 4 Reports Due Breakfast Club 8a W & M Min 7p	Pastor on Vac 5 Bible Study & Bulletin Prep 10a	Pastor on Vac 6	Pastor on Vac 7	Pastor on Vac 8
Pentecost Sunday 9 Worship 10a Summer Food Drive Kick-Off	10 Office Hrs. 3-8:30p Outreach 6:30p	11 Council 7p	12 Bible Study & Bulletin Prep 10a	13 Redevelopment 7p	14 Pastor Off	15 Leadership Training 9a-2p
Father's Day 16 Worship 10a	17 Office Hrs. 3-8:30p Communications 7p	18 Breakfast Club 9a Stewardship 7p	19 Bible Study & Bulletin Prep 10a Hospitality 7p	20	21 Pastor Off	22
Newsletter Art Due 23 Worship 10a Redevelopment Huddle after worship	24 Office Hrs. 3-8:30p	25 Constitution 6:30p	26 Bible Study & Bulletin Prep 10a Facilities 4:30p Faith Formation 7p	Taylorville Dayzz 27 Redevelopment 7p	Taylorville Dayzz 28 Pastor Off	Taylorville Dayzz 29
Picture Day 30 Worship 10a Installation of Council						

MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ACTIVITIES - MINISTRIES-EVENTS

We are called to proclaim God's grace by
sharing the story of Jesus to bring light, hope
and healing to the world.
St. Matthew's Mission



Schedule is subject to change, check weekly
bulletins.
Choir Practice on June 2nd after worship
& June 9th at 9:30a

June 2019

10:00 AM	Worship Assistant	Cantor	Lector	Acolyte	Childrens Message	Greeter	Usher
2-Jun	Karla Stoker	Eric Stoker	Harlan Bengtson	Jack Ballard	Mary Kay Arnold	LaVon Passey	Jacki P. & Mary Kay A.
	Counters: Cathy M. & Debbie	Sign: Faith Formation	Cleaning:	Hospitality Hour: Faith Formation BBQ	Altar Guild: Sandi W.	Announcements: Leandra	
Pentecost							
9-Jun	Liz Hawke	Harmony Thiemert	Mary Kay Arnold	TBD	Pastor Christine	Henny Johnson	Debbie & Amanda Ventura
	Counters: Kelli & Ronda	Sign:	Cleaning:	Hospitality Hour: Church Council	Altar Guild: Sandi W.	Announcements: Leandra	
Fathers Day & Holy Trinity							
16-Jun	Mary Kay Arnold	Leandra Ludlam	Marvin May	TBD	Alex Hilse	Mary Wimmer	May Family
	Counters: Mary B & Mary W	Sign:	Cleaning:	Hospitality Hour: Youth	Altar Guild: Sandi W.	Announcements: Leandra	
23-Jun	Eric Stoker	TBD	TBD	N/A	N/A	Sandi & Craig W.	Stoker Family
	Counters: MK & Edrie	Sign:	Cleaning:	Hospitality Hour: Dewey Family	Altar Guild: Sandi W.	Announcements: Leandra	
30-Jun	Mary Kay Arnold	TBD	TBD	N/A	N/A	Sandi & Craig W.	Erich T. & Frank C.
	Counters: Cindy & Jacki	Sign:	Cleaning:	Hospitality Hour: Caring Ministry	Altar Guild: Sandi W.	Announcements: Leandra	

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please switch with someone or find someone to take your place.

Thanks, Mary Kay Arnold 801-232-7564

St. Matthew's Information:

- **Announcements** – if you have any announcement that isn't listed on the insert, please refer to the volunteer sign-up sheet to notify the correct contact for the week. If you would like Amanda Ventura to include in the bulletin please email newsletter@stmatthewsut.org or put it in her box.
- **Our Food Pantry** – is located in the Narthex. If you or anyone you know is in need of food items, please take items from the food pantry. Food donations are always appreciated to help others in times of need.
- **Recycling Bin** – we are in danger of losing our paper recycling bin. Please support by bringing your newspaper, card board, magazines, junk mail, and other "CLEAN" paper.



Address Change Request Forms – *Have you moved? Has your email changed? Have you eliminated your land line and now just use a cell phone? Is your information listed incorrectly in the church directory?*

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please fill out an "Address Change Request Form" found in the Narthex's Welcome Center.

Please give completed forms to anyone on the Communications Ministry Team: Brian Schuster, Mike Stoker, or Amanda Ventura.



Save those Coupons! – These are collected and given to schools in our area who are in need. Please put all box tops and other coupons for education in the envelope on the sign-up bulletin board in the Narthex.



Spread the Word – Check into Facebook every time you are here at St. Matthew's. Tell folks what you are doing, post pictures, and tag your friends. Do you have an Instagram account? If so, take pictures to show your friends and family where you are and what you are doing at St. Matthew's.

June Birthday Wishes:

- Alex Hilse June 3
- Chloe Peercy June 11
- Amanda Ventura June 16
- Jacki Peercy June 20
- Stacy Frandsen June 26
- Rod Rowland June 26
- Roxanne Achenbach June 27



Prayer Chain:

For Healing in Mind, Body or Spirit:

Mavis Agar, MacKienze Erickson, Amanda Johnson, Elmae Johnson, Carl Hedin, Millie Lorbeck, Diane Peterson, Tiffany Pettigrew, Kerrigan Taylor Petzold, Lorraine Ponzurick, Jessica Ross, Pastor John & Jackie Sandstrom, Shy & Layne Schaugaard, Norman Seglem, Kathie Smith, Craig Widdowson and Josh & Cami Williams

Our Homebound:

Rosecella Beck, Vern DeGrey, Robin and Doug Ericksen, Lynn Milsap and Les Petzold.

Military & Other Public Servants:

1st Lt. William Clausen, US Army; Austin (Hess) Lassih, US Navy; Andrew Nguyen US Air Force, & Cadet Evan Schomaker, US Army

The Community & World:

Our prayer partner congregation, Mt. Tabor; schools; all victims of violence and/or warfare; those who have lost homes and businesses in the fires and those recovering from addictions.

