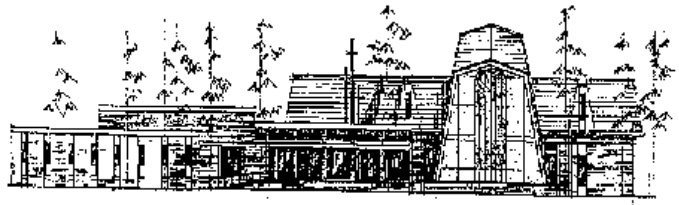


The Encounter



“The Church with a **WELCOME**”

1892-2009

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
612 S. College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403
E-Mail: stmatth@bellsouth.net
Website: stmatthewsch.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Volume 9

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Number 7



Martin Luther, at the beach? Folks are headed to the beach for vacation. Except, well, we're already AT the beach. Might just as well go to Sunday School. There's a special program, just for adults

and *nearly* adults of any age. It's meeting weekly, July and August, in McCombs Hall. Lots of chairs and tables; no book to buy; generous supply of our very own Star-Bubba's pretty-good non-gourmet coffee. Humor. Music. Lutheran ways. It'll be good.

What it is, is *The Summer Traveler's Guide to Lutheran Christianity* as a short course firmly rooted in The Lutheran Handbook and The Lutheran Handbook II, supported by passages from our Bible. Teens are welcome in this class; folks in their second childhood are also invited to participate. Y'all come!



Many thanks to all the people who contributed to Hilary Piper's Pig Pickin' Fund-raiser, whether in the form of donations of funds, food, time, or talent.



Is your marriage no longer a labor of love? Put the fun and caring back in your relationship by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend is September 4-6, 2009, in Black Mountain, NC. The registration deadline is August 14, 2009.

Ken and Gina Schiess from St. Matthews are an excellent resource for information about a Marriage Encounter weekend. For information about registration for a weekend, please contact Billie Vess and Charles Roach at roachves@charter.net.



Aren't we a good-looking congregation? Many thanks to Debbie Gimbal for a job well and finally (almost) done on getting our pictorial directory to us despite many challenges. If your picture was taken for the directory, your copy is labeled for you and waiting in the Commons. If you did not submit a photo for the directory, you may still get a directory for a love offering (suggested amount: \$15) to cover the cost of the binder and pages. If you were unable to participate in this directory but would still like a directory of your own, please sign up in the Commons.

More news on page 5

Greetings from Pastor Sam...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This summer I am exploring the positive side of the Ten Commandments, both through Martin Luther's eyes and through the lens of life in 21st century Wilmington, NC. The homiletical question for this summer is: "What is God's good and gracious will for us?" And that question is really derived from the key question God in Christ asks: "Who do you say that I am?" Who is God in Christ for you? How do you live as a Christian?

Some famous books and articles have been written over the years concerning the relationship between Christ and culture (the context in which we live out our lives). Most often the theologians and authors have been asking: "How does one live as a Christian in a world that does not always have room for self-conscious believers?" This leads to arguments about how to read Scripture and what behaviors are expected and forbidden by the God who has shown Himself to us in Jesus Christ.

Even the use of God language already reveals how the Christian person answers the "Who do you say I am" question. Those who contend that God reveals Himself to the world in Jesus Christ will use the same scriptural God language Jesus uses "Father, Abba, and He." Those who contend that all God language is metaphoric will use, what they contend are, alternative culturally accessible updates like "Godself, Heavenly Parent, and She." So even answering the "Who do you say that I am" question is not as easy as saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God" as Peter answered in Matthew 16.

Martin Luther starts in a much different place to get at the question who is God in Christ. Luther would say that everything flows from the first commandment: "You shall have no other gods," and explaining that "We are to fear, love, and trust God above all else." Of course, Luther would say that we know the God who speaks this first commandment, because He has shown Himself to us in Jesus Christ in and through the Holy Scriptures and the rightful preaching and teaching of them. We need a Savior because we cannot keep the first commandment! We do have other gods that draw us away from God!

In his explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, Luther says: "I believe I cannot by my own reason or understanding believe in my Lord Jesus Christ or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel." Rightly preaching, (teaching, and witnessing) to God's Incarnate Son, Jesus Christ, and Him crucified and raised from the dead becomes the means by which the Holy Spirit creates trust in the hearts and minds of those that hear the Good News of God's great love for sinners.

In the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, Luther says: "All this Christ has done that I may be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness." The God who speaks is the God who has acted to create and care for us, to save and redeem us, and to forgive our sins and call us through the Church to the new baptismal life in Christ that goes on forever.

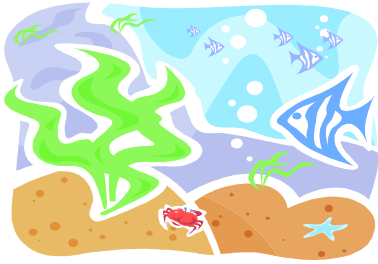
Which, then, leads us back to the question: "Who is God in Christ for you?" According to Scripture, He is Abba (Daddy), Incarnate and Crucified God-Man, and Spirit of Life – the Three-in-One God – who treasured me enough to give His own life for my sake so that I may live with Him forever. God in Christ is the One who has made me and all things and has called me from the old life of sin, death, and evil into the joy, freedom, and gift of living God's life and God's love in the communion of saints forever.

All of which leads back to the problem of idolatry that dogs our days in this life. Luther pointed out that the root sin (original sin) is that we do not fear, love, and trust God above all else. And that gets at how we live as beloved daughters and sons of God who have been redeemed by the innocent suffering and death and most precious blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son our Lord.

"Who do you say that I am?" As people who have received God's grace and mercy through no effort or merit of our own while we were yet sinners, the only response we can give is gratitude. We say "thank you" by seeking to do God's good and gracious will. The more we immerse ourselves in the hearing and reading of Scripture, the more we learn what the God who has acted in Christ Jesus for us does and does not want. Or, more pointedly, the more we grasp who it is that has acted for us in Christ Jesus, the more we understand that, by ourselves, we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

How we live says what is most important to us – who God is for us! Small children figure out early on when Mom and Dad say God is important with their lips but then very little that Mom and Dad does actually says that God is central to their lives. And as children grow up, they grasp that much faster if Mom and Dad talk a good talk but don't walk a good walk. So...focusing on the good and gracious will of God is really about naming the idols in our lives and then asking the Holy Spirit's help to follow the Lord Jesus in a life of loving obedience to the heavenly Father who knows our needs even before we ask!

See you in worship often!



Christian Education

The Christian Education Team is busy making plans for an even more exciting Sunday School year. Adventures of the S.E.A. (Story Enriching Activities) for ages 3 through 5th grade will experience more stories with many different activities. Our goal is to have everyone open the Bible and read it — beginning at a very young age — and to encourage daily lifelong learning. We want to help foster a personal relationship with our Triune God.

Please complete the Sunday School survey and return it as soon as possible. Place it in the box in the Commons or contact Tammi Gates. We can use many different talents to encourage our growth and the growth of others.

Please pray about Adult Sunday School, and contact me by e-mail or phone if you have ideas for classes. We plan to offer a variety of choices so everyone can find something they are interested in attending. Our Lutheran Synod Resource Center as well as The Book of Faith Initiative (encouraging everyone to read and study the Bible, our book of faith), provides several resources for study. Men's and Women's Bible studies are also available. Just contact me with interest in attending or facilitating.

We also have a class for middle school (Divine Drama) and a class for high school (Life application for contemporary issues).

Please prayerfully consider being involved in many capacities –teacher, student, resource. Contact Tammi Gates for more information (910-200-4415 or at tammig@iglide.net).

Tammi Gates, Leader
Christian Education Team



St. Matthew's VBS 2009 Camp EDGE

We will be **Experiencing and Discovering God Everywhere** during an exciting week of camp. Our camping experience will begin on July 12th. We will be registering our youth AND adult campers as well as camp staff on July 12th from 4:30 PM until 5:45 PM. Camp EDGE will kick off that same day at 6:00 PM. We will continue **Experiencing and Discovering God Everywhere** July 13th—16th from 6:00 PM until 8:30 PM. Camp will be concluding on July 17th at 6:00 PM with our closing program followed by an Ice Cream Social and a VERY, VERY special surprise. Dinner will be served July 13th thru 16th from 5:00 PM until 5:45 PM. Camp EDGE is a fun and exciting VBS experience with new activities and experiences for ALL ages. Please watch the Commons area for Camp EDGE coupons. These coupons will bear items that will be needed for our camping experience. Please take as many as you would like. A date for drop-off will be on each coupon. Come and join us for a full-filled week of **Experiencing and Discovering God Everywhere** at Camp EDGE.

— Scott Holzberger

*Our Christian sympathy is
extended to...*



The family of Bill Killian on the loss of his wife Betty on May 3.

The family of Scott Monroe on the loss of his paternal grandmother, Ruby Barnhill, on June 3rd.

The family of Deanna Carlisle on the loss of her husband Dean on June 3rd.

Nancy Heck on the loss of her father, Richard Heck, in Cheboygan, MI on June 28.

Youth Ministry News
Nancy Magruder, Director



Youth Summer Schedule!

A schedule for pool dates, beach time, day trips, and fellowship times in the gym is on the youth board. The schedule will be updated and events will be added as I am able. Please remember my schedule is varied because of summer camps and mission trips but we still have a youth program.



T- Shirt Sales!!!

St. Matthew's t-shirts fundraiser is back! If you wish to purchase any clothing item please fill out the form in the commons area and return it along with your check to St. Matthew's into the basket. We also have car magnets and window clings available for you at a cost of \$5 each. Please have your final order in by July 15th. All proceeds will go the youth program.



Middle School Mission Retreat
August 4th-8th

We will spend Tuesday-Friday night in the gym and work during the day with our fun day on Saturday to a water park in Myrtle Beach. Cost to each youth is \$30; this covers the water park and help with the gas. We will have sign ups for our meals and snacks.



Rally Day

Mark your calendars! Rally Day is Sunday September 13th. We will resume regular Sunday school and youth group schedules after Labor Day. A 2009-2010 youth calendar will be available in late August.



Youth Yard Sale – THANKS!

A big “thank-you” and “well done” must go out to the whole congregation for its tremendous support of the youth yard sale. Donations rolled in all week and we filled the entire McSwain gymnasium with items large and small. Your collective generosity has shown through yet again as it has on so many occasions. Shoppers arrived early as we opened the doors and there was a steady stream of buyers all morning. As of Saturday afternoon, immediately following the sale, we had raised over \$2300. Praise God.

All of the proceeds go directly to support the sixteen St. Matthew high-schoolers who will be traveling to New Orleans in July. If you would like to learn more about this, please visit the web site at: <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Youth-Ministry/Youth-Gathering.aspx>

The web site describes the week-long event as follows: “Based on Philippians 2:1-8, the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering will look and feel like a servant school. At the center of the Gathering program is a deepening of our awareness of God’s call to servanthood, and a deepening of the basic Christian practices by which we live our baptismal calling to servanthood throughout life.”

I invite you to read and study Philippians 2:1-8. Indeed, in your recent support of these fine young people, you have witnessed to it.

Thank you,
John Antonelli

Thank you for being Christ's hand extended...

Thanks for your prayers, cards and Pastor's visits during my illness. I especially love the prayer shawl given to me by the ladies. Before long I shall be back to my normal routine as my treatments end in July.

*Love,
Milly Schulz*

Thank you for the 250 soup labels and 50 box tops for the Lutheran Indian School, Arizona.

Jane Bruce

June will be my last month at St. Matthew's for I am moving to Southport. I just wanted to say "thank you" and "God bless" to Pastor Sam and the Saturday night congregation.

Mike Pierce

Thank you to all I came in contact with while working in the church office the last couple months. You made me feel welcome and were understanding when I just didn't have an answer to your questions. It was a pleasure to meet you. Thank you for making this a pleasant experience. May God bless you all.

Joyce Lanier

Thanks to everyone for your encouragement, support, and great patience as we have attempted the transition in the church office. It has given me the opportunity to greet those of you I already know and to match names and faces of those I'm getting to know. I look forward to continuing to serve St. Matthews in the part-time secretary position.

Cherry Horn

Thank you for all the prayers and support you gave as I underwent and recuperated from surgery.

Nancy Heck

The Body of Christ at St. Matthews...

Dorothy Weber is at The Commons at Brightmore, 2324 41st Street, Wilmington, NC 28403.

Sara Wakild, daughter of Susie and Chuck Wakild, received her Masters in Business Administration from Georgetown University on May 15, 2009.

Our New Disciples' Class, for those who are new to Christianity or to the Lutheran church, is scheduled for Saturday, August 22, from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM in McCombs Hall.

Our next New Member Orientation, for those completing the August 22nd class or a previous class, and for transferring Lutherans is on Saturday, September 19, from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM.

Have you seen the framed collage of the pictures taken for our church directory? It is hanging in the Main hallway across from the Administrative Offices. Many thanks to Jenna Ricketts for the work she did creating this layout!

We are happy to report that one of the Gouveia family, one of our WIHN families, has moved from the church rotation program to the Interim Housing at Langdon House. They should be in their own housing before the start of the fall school semester.

Our delegates at synod assembly got to visit with Pr. Bob and Laura Matthias, who send their greetings to our congregation. Pastor Bob is in great health and is currently doing an interim pastorate at a Presbyterian church in the mountains. He was the interim senior pastor prior to Pastor Sam's call to St. Matthew's in 2004.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard— Social ministry will continue to collect non-perishable foods throughout the summer months. The need is great at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and we want to help as much as possible in this tough economic environment. Please put donations in the Mother Hubbard container in the Commons.

Master Calendar

We are putting together a master calendar for *all* church activities. When you have your group dates set for next year, please give a copy to the church office or Nancy Magruder. This includes all ministry meetings and activities, scouts, special events, WIHN dates, special building use times, etc.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Adell Troxler, Chuck Stansbury, Bonnie Weaver, Wilford Ellison, Jane McDougald, Jackie Davis, Nicholas Hufham, Amber Mattoon, Darrin Jones, Dorothy Blade, Joe Nobles

MEMBERS:

Jane Brunt	Frank Fauser	Sarah McDougald
Gary Faircloth	Frank Howard	Terri Dearie
Brenda Tyler	Brenda Seitter	Diane Vickery
Jane Sanderson	Marie Brown	Prue Hovis
Emma Brunjes	Jerry Murrell	John Geiger
Harold Shelton, Jr	Peyton Hughes	Michael Vickery
James Ammons	Bob Jones	Alexis Holzberger
Nancy Miller	Betty Lauver	Karen Haag
Emma Brunjes	Sara Schneider	Ruth Smith
Dee & Ernie Young	Nancy Heck	Delores Irenze
Earl Lindner	Jim Mees	Dean Carlisle
Tom Thompson	Jim Harshbarger	Karen Haag
Tammy Bryant	Barbara Moore	Charlotte Harris
James & Barbara Clemmons		
Danielle Bashaw and daughter Braelynn		
Family of Scott Monroe		

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS:

Carroll Strong	Margaret Evans	Military Families
John Fonger	William Davis	Pat Manning
Edward Capalbo	Seth Ewing	Nathan Fauser
Sarah Mairs	Noel Costa	Bertha Rankin
Eugene Lauer	Herb Fox	Corey McDonald
Pat Dearie	Fran Heidorn	Karen Brix
Cindy Fentress	Peggy Clemmons	Henriette Pahl
Martin O'Neil	Liz Sabbagh	Katherine Gatewood
Karen Marshall	Lois Whitmeyer	Tom and Joella Hyne
Heather Thornton	Jimmie Robeson	Louise Heck
Shirley Chilcote		Albert & Dee Smith
Jason, great-grandson of Milton Moser		Christopher Johnson
Gary & Cindy Hogman		
Anne Duncan & Duncan family		

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS –

Diane Koen, Emma Brunjes, Barbara Cook, Helen Hauns, Betty Lauver, Jane McDougald, Jo Kallenborn, Dee Young, Margaret Eller, Dorothy Weber, Charles Ramseur

If you see names on this list that can be removed, please call the church office.



**GIFTS
TO HONOR AND TO REMEMBER**

May 31, 2009 - June 28, 2009

**MEMORY OF HELEN FROMM, MOTHER OF
DARLENE SCHUCKER**

Youth Trip

Judy Clemmons

MEMORY OF BETTY KILLIAN

Youth fund

Stephen Ministry Fund

Fuller

Nell McArver

Larry and Pat Mahl

**MEMORY OF THELMA SEAY, MOTHER OF
NORMA VICS**

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Andrew & Norma Vics

Vera Wilson

HONOR OF CATHY ALEKSANDRAVICIUS

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Micki Matthess

HONOR OF IAN BRAMBELLS

Youth Mission Trip

Andrew & Norma Vics

**HONOR OF ERNEST AND DEE YOUNG'S 68TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

Bud Poythress and Elissa

Those Serving in July 2009

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 5** 8:30 Scott Holzberger, Nancy Magruder
Bethel Paris, Butch Ruefle
11:00 Stan Brunt, Kristi Wade
Lynette Farmer, Danielle Bashaw
- 12** 8:30 Frank and Marti Felter
Frank and Renate Gray
11:00 Jodi Davis, Susan Shearin
Saville Riesz, Kelly Stansbury
- 19** 8:30 Florence Schorschinsky, John Stemke
Dick and Sophie Williams
11:00 Mellisa Hollamon, Helen Stansbury
Melinda Knoerzer, Karen Haag
- 26** 8:30 Terri Dearie, Linda Renzaglia
Allan Warrington, Nancy Wells
11:00 Ruthann Getsinger, Stephanie Price
Ken Johns, Barbara Moore

USHERS

Saturday Service: Ed McDonough

Sunday Service:

- 5** 8:30 Gary Cummings and Joel Melito
11:00 Keith Geiger, Saville Riesz
Mark Williams
- 12** 8:30 Randy and Bryce Mallo
11:00 Fred Getsinger, Jamie Price, Bill Piper
- 19** 8:30 David Miller and Bill Rose
11:00 Jerry and Zan Bramley, Lawrence Hughes
- 26** 8:30 Frank Gray and Jim Bauer
11:00 Arthur Moore, Bill and Robert Perry

LECTORS *Saturday Services:* (4) James Harshbarger;
(11) Joanne Johnson; (18) Lea Shipman; (25) Kathy Bink

Sunday Services

- | | 8:30 | 11:00 |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| 5 | Vivian Alexander | John Antonelli |
| 12 | Marti Felter | Richard Chinn |
| 19 | Nancy Fauser | Nancy Miller |
| 26 | Becky Howard | Bill Davis |

GREETERS

- 6:00 Ron and Judy Funke
8:30 Norm and Helen Walter
Mary McSwain
Marilyn Alexander
11:00 Dale and Dorothy Blade
Judy Daniels
Cherry Horn

ACOLYTES (2 needed for each service)

- | | 8:30 | 11:00 |
|-----------|------------------|---------------|
| 5 | | Robert Perry |
| 12 | Patrick Magruder | Robert Perry |
| 19 | | Robert Perry |
| 26 | | Laurel Melito |

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 5** Phyllis Smith; Jane Bruce
12 Vera M. Wilson; Annette & Michael Janssen
19 Larry & Pat Mahl, Kathie Tucker
26 Dale & Dorothy Blade; Pr. Sam & Laura Zumwalt

NURSERY

- | | 8:30 | 11:00 |
|-----------|-------------------|------------------|
| 5 | Volunteer needed | Lizzie Rhoades |
| 12 | Volunteer needed | Volunteer needed |
| 19 | Suzanne Whitmarsh | Volunteer needed |
| 26 | Cindy Prehar | Volunteer needed |

ALTAR GUILD *Saturday: Kay Faircloth*

- 5** Shirley Morrow, Lea Shipman, Carol Chinn
12 Linda Renzaglia, Gina Williams, Danielle Bashaw
19 Jean Wooley, Carol Comeskey, Lynette Farmer
26 Patti Erkes, Kristi Wade, Cathy Aleksandravicius

BUILDING Sat: Ed McDonough

SUNDAY: OPEN: July 5 Jamie Price

All other Sundays Trevor Hornick

CLOSE: Arnold Wychel

TAPING MINISTRY: Jim Bauer

If you see vacancies in this schedule that you are willing to fill, please call the church office. We particularly need nursery volunteers and acolytes.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

The Rev. Dr. Samuel D. Zumwalt, Pastor
612 S. College Road
Wilmington, NC. 28403-3202
(910) 791-4582

JULY 2009

E-Mail: stmattch@bellsouth.net
Website: stmatthewsch.org

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TIME VALUE MAIL

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