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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

For anyone interested, my luggage did make its way home on Monday. Unfortunately, it did not bring me a gift, merely a bunch of laundry to do. Of course, I am thankful for the ability to own a washing machine and a dryer!

Anyway, a further update from our friends in Tabora Diocese. Bishop Elias emailed to state that the funds from St. Matthew's purchased all of the steel for the roof at the Ndala rectory and Bishop Daniel has wired enough funds to complete that work. Bishop Elias will be visiting Ndala on 11 August for confirmations and will be sending pictures of the new roof at that time.

Speaking of confirmations, Fr. Tuyishime, Bishop Elias's chaplain, told me this week that they had over 100 confirmations last week during a visit to Kaliua parish! Praise God for the work being done for the gospel in our partner diocese!

I pray that we will receive the same outpouring of the blessing of God on our work in McLean County.

In Christ,

Fr. Dave
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield
Rector's Blog

The Good News

July 21, 2017



Parish Education

Formal formation is on summer break. There will be informal gatherings on and off during the summer for youth and adults. Watch this space for information.

Youth members are invited to join Fr. Halt for Pizza and discussion on July 31st, 6PM, at Monical's on Eldorado.

From the Mission Leadership Team

As we enjoy the new hardwood flooring around the altar, we also want to enjoy the kneelers that will protect our tender knees. The kneeler pads have been ordered and we expect delivery in mid-August. The kneelers were not included in the original cost estimate for the flooring. Wouldn't you like to participate? Include "kneelers" on you check memo.

Fr. Halt's Summer Schedule

Fr. Halt will be gone the weekend of August 6th to attend the wedding of Liam's Godfather.

The next intensive for his PhD work will take place from 27 August to 9 September.

This will conclude summer travel and absences.

Morning Prayer - Summer Schedule

Morning Prayer is offered at 7AM Tuesday, 7:30 AM on Thursday, and 7AM on Friday. The fourth Thursday at 7:30 AM is usually Holy Eucharist.

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:
[Good News Daily](#)

Intercessory Prayer

Intercessory Prayer is offered at 8 p.m. on Monday, and on

Thursday at 12:15.

Guild of the Holy Rosary

Meets immediately after the 10:00 service on Sunday morning.

Serving Schedule

23-July

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Mona Johnstone

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Lector: Martha Carroll

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Phyllis & Dave Halt

30-July

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Chris Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Lector: Robin Levine

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Pam Laws

Coffee Hour: Char Wald, Carole Cox, Levine/Smith

Outreach Opportunities

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

In July we continue asking for donations for the Home Sweet Home Mission, a 100-year-old Christian organization which provides shelter and meals for the needy in our community.

Here are some suggestions: body wash, baby wipes, diapers sz. 4, razors, shaving cream, children's toothpaste, dish soap, paper towels; cooking oil, coffee, canned or jars of nuts, baked beans, fruit cups, pudding cups, dried fruit, dry milk.

Many thanks! The Outreach Committee

Coffee Hour Schedule

It's time to update the Coffee Hour schedule for August 2017

through January 2018. Many, many thanks to our faithful hosts - may we count on you again?

We will assume current hosts will continue to serve UNLESS we hear from you to the contrary. There's always room for new hosts on the schedule. Please consider joining this important ministry. We will train you. Please know we don't ask for an elaborate spread of treats, though you're welcome to provide one. Simple snacks and a cold drink are sufficient. St. Matthew's provides coffee, tea, creamer & sugar, dishes, tableware, and napkins.

Please contact: Ann Sokan, 664-1639 or Linda Thomas, 242-7160.

Parish Schedule for the week of July 16th

Coffee hour follows worship in the Parish hall

Sunday-7:30 a.m.-Rite I

Sunday-10:00 a.m.-Rite II

Sunday-11:00 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-8:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Monday-8:00 p.m.-Intercessory Prayer

Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Wednesday-8:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer & Breakfast

Friday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email reply to the newsletter, or call the office.

Readings & Music for July 23, 2017

Hymns: #522, #487, #377, #541

Old Testament

Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Do not fear, or be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Psalm 86:11-17

Inclina, Domine

11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth; *

knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.

12 I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, *
and glorify your Name for evermore.

13 For great is your love toward me; *

you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.

14 The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life; *

they have not set you before their eyes.

15 But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *

give your strength to your servant;

and save the child of your handmaid.

17 Show me a sign of your favor,

so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *

because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

The Epistle

Romans 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for

adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Birthdays & Anniversaries from July 23 - 29

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Julie Cooper

Tim Leighton

Halian Littlefield

Collect for Sunday July 23, 2017

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion, we beseech thee, upon our infirmities, and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, mercifully give us for the worthiness of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

