

## Contents

This Week's Readings

## Rector's Ramblings

Continuing the conversation on the new Mission Leadership Team, I would like to introduce Jeff Clark.

Jeff is an administrator and professor at Illinois State University and is married to Susan. They most often attend the 10AM service, and have served together as coffee hour hosts.

Susan is a regularly scheduled counter on Monday mornings.

Jeff has been given the MLT portfolio of Finance. In this capacity he is taking on leadership of ensuring processes and procedures for financial activities.

Maintaining detailed knowledge of our financial situation and serving as the MLT resource for these operations.

In future, this position will also be working with MLT on the annual stewardship campaign, as well as, any capital campaigns needed.

If you have questions regarding the finances of your Eucharistic Community, please see Jeff.

And, Jeff, thank you for your willingness to serve.

In Christ,

Fr. Dave  
309-660-8515

## Ministry Links

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

## The Good News

September 15, 2017



### Parish Education

Formal formation will resume on September 20th. Our initial gathering will be to discuss the themes, books, or questions we want to study over the course of the year.

There will be a gathering of youth following evensong on September 24th. Evensong will be at 5:30 that day and youth will gather at Monicals on El Dorado at 6PM.

### Diocesan Synod

Synod will take place on 13-14 October at the Parke Regency here in Bloomington. We are in need of several volunteers for both days. If you are interested in serving as a registration clerk, page, or teller, please see Sandy Kohlase.

If you are interested in serving on the altar for the Synod Mass on the 13th, please see Fr. Dave.

### Bishop's Visit

Bishop Martin's will be making his annual visit on 15 October at both services. Any adult who desires to be confirmed should see Fr. Dave.

### Pulpit Exchange

Fr. Halt will be a participating in a pulpit exchange with, Fr. Ian Wetmore, the current president of the diocesan Standing Committee and Vicar of St. Michael's, O'Fallon. The exchange will take place on October 22. Please make Fr. Wetmore feel welcome.

### The Daily Devotional Reading

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

## **Guild of the Holy Rosary**

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

## **Breakfast Fellowships**

Men's breakfast - Saturday 9/16 at 8:00 a.m.

## **Sundae Sunday**

Please join in the celebration of 'Sunday Sundae' on September 17! Following the 10:00 a.m. service, St. Matthew Mission Leadership Team will provide the ice cream and toppings for everyone to enjoy while leaders of the various service groups will share information on how you can become involved in the life of our church. There will also be information about the planned education programs for children and adults. We hope to see you for this wonderful opportunity for fellowship.

## **Serving Schedule**

17-September

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Lector: John Stoffer

E.M.: SB Carter

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: MLT - Sundaes

24-September

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Mark Gibson

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Christian Pitts

Lector: Jim Cooper

E.M.: Substitute Needed

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Linda Thomas & Ann Sokan

## **Outreach Opportunities**

### **BOOK/DVD/BAKE SALE**

St. Matthew's will hold its fall Book/DVD/Bake Sale on Saturday, September 23, from 8 AM - Noon. All proceeds go to Outreach activities. Please bring your donations of gently used books, DVDs, CDs, and other recordings to the church and place them near the book shelves in the parish hall. If you need help getting your donations to the church, please contact Debbie Leighton at 662-7478. Set-up for the sale is Friday afternoon (9/22) at 3 p.m. Your donated baked goods can be left for the sale at the following times: Friday business hours (9 - 1), or at set-up 3 p.m., or first thing Saturday morning beginning at 8 a.m.

### **ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH**

Thank you for your recent donations of school supplies to Oakland School. We will continue to request donations during the fall; however, the school needs supplies throughout the year.

Suggestions for supplies for grades K-5 as noted on the supply list (double sided) are posted on the bulletin board. Your contributions can be placed on the ledge in the main hallway outside the sanctuary. Please read the thank you note from Oakland School, also posted on the bulletin board in recognition and appreciation of our efforts.

In addition, we continue to collect "Boxtops for Education" labels found on packages of many food items. A long list of possible foods with Box top labels is posted on the bulletin board. The labels can be placed in boxes in the Narthex or on the bulletin board. Many thanks for helping with these collections.

### **OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES-HURRICANE RELIEF**

We have all been so moved over the past two weeks by the impact of Hurricane Harvey. The damage from this storm is so widespread and recovery will take many months, if not years. From all accounts, the potential destruction from Hurricane Irma will be even be more significant. Midwest Food Bank is working closely with The Salvation Army to provide disaster relief boxes and other supplies to people who have been and will be impacted. As a Salvation Army First Responder, Midwest Food Bank can have supplies on the road within 24 hours of being called. To date, at least 10 tractor trailer trucks of relief boxes have been requested for Houston victims, with many more loads expected in the coming months. Disaster Relief boxes contain enough shelf-stable food to feed a family of four for 4 to 5 days as well as some toiletries. Each box also contains a Bible and a handwritten note of support and encouragement. These notes let those impacted by the storm know that people care about them, are praying for them and firmly believe that with God's help, they will recover and see better days ahead.

**HOW ST. MATTHEW'S CAN HELP.** If you would like to write a

handwritten note to be inserted into the Salvation Army relief boxes being delivered by Midwest Food Bank to Hurricane Harvey and Irma victims, please place an undated note into the basket by the Outreach items of the month. This is a very tangible way to show compassion for those in need and offer them encouragement amidst all of the upheaval in their lives. I know this will be very much appreciated by the recipients and by Midwest Food Bank.

YOU CAN ALSO PROVIDE DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT through the Diocese of Texas websight: [www.epicenter.org/harvey/](http://www.epicenter.org/harvey/) is a direct link for giving, along with information from their Bishop.

Other Ways to Help. Midwest Food Bank will have many opportunities available in the coming weeks and months for those who would like to assist with hurricane relief efforts. Please check the Midwest Food Bank website: [www.midwestfoodbank.org](http://www.midwestfoodbank.org) for dates of upcoming volunteer opportunities. The website also lists food, hygiene items and cleaning supplies currently being collected.

Please pray for all those impacted by these natural disasters. If you have any questions, please contact Chrissy Stoffer at 663-6450.

### **Parish Schedule for the week of September 17th**

*'Sundae Sunday' follows 10:00 a.m. 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-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Monday-5:30 p.m.-Brownies

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

Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters

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

Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Light supper for study participants

Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Adult formation

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Holy Eucharist & Breakfast

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

Friday-3:00 p.m.-Book DVD/Bake Sale set-up

Saturday-8:00 a.m.-Outreach Book/DVD/Bake Sale

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 September 17, 2017

Hymns: #397, #336, #674

Old Testament

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Psalms 103:8-13

*Benedic, anima mea*

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

The Epistle

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in

honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

### The Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries from September 17 - 23**

#### Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

Kim Bray

Ina Rehtmeyer  
Devan Roberson  
Linda Stawick  
Theresa Garrison

**Collect for Sunday September 17, 2017**

O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee, mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

