



## ST. MATTHEW'S MESSENGER

We're just days away from welcoming in 2019, and for many of us, the New Year evokes a wide range of emotions: hope, expectation, excitement - and for some, anxiety and uncertainty over what the future will hold. While we don't know what faces us in the coming year, we can take comfort in God's promise to never leave us or forsake us - and He always remains faithful to His word. Amid an ever-changing culture, He remains the same. Take comfort in that truth!

As we approach the forthcoming year, let's remember to look to God's Word for direction, instruction, and encouragement. Here are ten Bible verses for us to reflect on as we say goodbye to 2018 and welcome in 2019.

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6*

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor. 5:17*

*"You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths drip with abundance." Ps. 65:11*

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jer. 29:11*

*"And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Rev. 21:5*

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lam. 3:22-23*

*"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." Phil. 3:13*

*"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Is. 40:31*

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Prov. 3:5-6*

*May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. " Ps 20:4*

## PASTORAL SERVICES

If our members have need of Pastoral Services due to hospitalization or other needs, please contact Pastor Silas Schmitzer at 608-457-2711, cell 608-304-9265 or email [pastor.schmitzer@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.schmitzer@gmail.com)

### Staff Contact List

President - Perry Kilmer 608-797-0836  
Vice President - Dave Liggett  
Secretary - Doug Miller 608-386-9803  
Treasurer - Mike Alderman 608-792-1235

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### Ladies Aid

Our Ladies Aid had a Christmas party on December 17th, at the China Buffet. We all enjoyed lots of good food, a gift exchange game and the fellowship of each other.

We will meet again on Wednesday, January 16th, at noon. This will be a potluck meal.

Elections will be held for the offices of vice president and secretary.

The constitution will be read.

All ladies of our congregation are welcome to visit us and would love to have you join us.

Together we can serve our Lord in a very meaningful way.

May you all have a very blessed new year. In Christ's love, your Ladies Aid.

## St. Matthews Church Council Meeting

December 10, 2018

Council members present: Pastor Schmitzer, Principal James Otto, Larry Soucheck, Ralph Stellick, Mike Alderman, Mike Everson, Perry Kilmer, Pastor Liggett, Doug Miller and Sam Vanden Heuvel. Visitor; Carl Piper.

Meeting called to order by Perry Kilmer at 6:35 pm.

Devotion read by Pastor Schmitzer based on Mark 13:36-37 "Pack your Bags".

Special presentation by Carl Piper on the planning for the 150th anniversary. Presentation attached to minutes. MSP support plan to present to the voters meeting.

Secretary's report: attached; MSP.

Treasurer's report: attached: MSP. Currently finances are pretty much right on track.

Pastor's report: attached with highlights; 1) Start the Bible study based on book of Ruth. 2) Discussed having an add placed on the local cable channel for Christmas services. 3) Charles Bono playing organ on Sunday 23rd and leading service. 4) Elaine Miller request transfer to St Paul Onalaska, MSP. 5) Chelsie Vanden Heuvel request permission to give a demonstration-council does not give approval to give that time after service.

Elder's report: No meeting this month.

Outreach Oversight Committee: Thanksgiving dinner had a great turn out. Blood drives for the next year have been scheduled.

Principal's report: attached, with highlights: 1) updated in the school safety Grant; no final systems have been instilled yet, however, may be coming next couple months. 2) Mr. Otto's Parsonage Allowance for 2019- \$26,310. MSP

School board report: Agenda attached

Luther High School: no report.

Building and grounds: Grease trap resolved. Proposal for lights for church table at this time for more information.

Cemetery Sextant report; no new information

Planned Giving: No report

Old Business: Lights for church, discussed in Building and Grounds- placed on hold.

New Business: Job descriptions, elections will be discussed in 1st Council meeting of the new year, discussion of paying \$125 for Mission Fest speaker.

Next meeting: January 14, 2019

Adjourned with prayer at 9:00

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Miller, Secretary



ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN SCHOOL, STODDARD, WI  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
December 10, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Ekhoﬀ

Principal James Otto

Pastor Schmitzer

Dan Dretske

Nate Stuebs

Sam Vanden Heuvel

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

Pastor Schmitzer opened with devotion.

David read the secretary's report from November 12. A motion was made and seconded to approve the secretary's report. The motion was approved.

Treasurers report.

Report from November 1 to December 10 - Balance of \$12,516.50.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurers report, motion approved.

James Otto presented the Principal's report.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Principal's report. The motion was approved.

Next meeting January 14, 2019 @ 5:30 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted for approval January 14, 2019.

David Ekhoﬀ - Secretary, School Board, St. Matthews Lutheran School

# WELS

## whataboutjesus.com

### **Where is contentment to be found?**

in Life Concerns, Society

A farmer who had lived on the same farm all his life began to long for something better. He finally decided to sell it. He listed it with a real estate broker who promptly prepared a sales advertisement for the farm. The ad, of course, listed all the farm's advantages: ideal location, modern equipment, healthy stock, and acres of fertile ground.

When the farmer saw the ad in the paper, he hurriedly phoned his real estate agent. "I'll buy it!" he exclaimed. "It's exactly the place I'm looking for!"

Contentment is a matter of perspective. How many times have you lived out the cliché, "You don't know what you've got until it's gone"?

There is a place where contentment is found, and you don't need to take a religious pilgrimage to find it. Look at the people, possessions, and pleasures in your life and see them not as your own but "on loan" from God. He gives them to you for a purpose. He wants you to take care of them, and to manage them faithfully.

Some people have received talents from God that are most appreciated by the company's upper management. Other people have received talents that are noticed most by two-year-olds as they live securely in a loving home. Both kinds of people can be content.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" one Bible writer happily urges. "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:4,12-13).

Contentment is a happiness and appreciation that comes from God tapping you on the shoulder and saying, "I'd like you to do something for me. It's not the same as everyone else is doing, but I know you can do it well. Here's what I want you to use."

Rejoice! No matter what the circumstances, you can be content when you see what you have as a gift from God. Part of that gift is the purpose behind it, an improvement project that improves not just the gift, but also the one to whom it is given.

# January



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."



"I'm playing a crowd member in the Passion Play. I was going to play Pilate 'til I found out I'd have to wash my hands."



"Don't worry. I'm a church pastor. First little problem, and they'll find me."



"Anything about leash laws?"



# Coloring Page

