



ST. MATTHEW'S MESSENGER

Where can I go?

Once a family had come on such hard times that they resorted to stealing in order to get food to eat. Late one evening, the father took his young son down a quiet road past a field of sweet corn to pick some for them to eat. As they dashed out of the field with their pickings, the father checked over his shoulder to the right and to the left to see if anyone was coming. The road was quiet, except for his little boy's voice, "Dad you forgot to look one direction." He pointed his finger up toward the sky. The man was so ashamed about what he had done. He went to the nearest farmhouse to confess his crime. The farmer and his wife who lived in that farmhouse were moved by the story of the man's plight and had compassion on him and his family. They told him to keep the corn he had picked and invited him to come back and pick more when they needed some.

King David reminds us so beautifully that God is present everywhere in Psalm 139. "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." (vv. 7-10) Why would someone want to flee from God's presence? Well, perhaps like the father in the story, or the prophet Jonah of old, we'd like to keep our sins hidden from him or follow our own path rather than his commands. Obviously such attempts are futile. God is everywhere. He sees everything.

"Before a word is on my tongue, you know it completely, O Lord." (v.4) He knows us inside and out. He knows our thoughts and desires before we speak them or act on them. The only wise choice is to turn to God in humble repentance and ask him to forgive us, not try to deny our sins or hide them. He has made confessing incredibly easy for us by his assurance that he has forgiven all of our sins by the death of Jesus on the cross.

But God is not only there to keep an eye on us when we sin. His omnipresence is a great blessing to us because he loves us and blesses us everywhere. It does not matter if you're heading off to college, moving in to assisted living, getting married, vacationing across the country, or serving in the military around the world. God is with us everywhere to bless us and protect us. We do not need to fear that he could ever lose sight of us or abandon us to evil. He will keep his promise to us, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

This summer as you go places and do things that are out of your normal routine, remember the Lord is with you at all times and everywhere to protect, to bless, and to forgive.

Pastor Silas Schmitzer

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

Staff Contact List

President - Perry Kilmer 608-457-2574
Vice President - Dave Liggett
Secretary - Doug Miller 608-386-9803
Treasurer - Mike Alderman 608-792-1235

Miss Sonja Oldre 507-359-2341 _____ email: soldre@stmatthews-wels.com

Mr. James Otto 608-804-0474 _____ email: jotto@stmatthews-wels.com

Mrs. Jackie Otto 989-992-4623 _____ email: jacalynotto@stmatthews-wels.com

Mrs. Katie Alderman _____ email: kalderman@stmatthews-wels.com

Caring Elders

James 1:21-22

“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the Word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

The elders are reading the book *The Shepherd's Assistant* by Arthur J. Clement. The section we are studying currently is entitled “Responding to Excuses or Objections.” The first part has someone saying they don't get anything out of the church worship service.

The reason we come to church is to worship God. We sing and speak his praise. We hear his Word, which shows us our sins and tells us we have a wonderful Savior from sin. To properly prepare to worship God and to hear and appreciate his Word, we need to rid ourselves of all distractions as we enter the sanctuary. And we need to come to church with humility: like an empty vessel that is ready to be filled up. Yes, we ought to be eager to hear what God has to say to us in the Scripture.

And then there is the sermon. What do you get out of the sermon? Consider this-pastors devote numerous hours studying, writing, and memorizing their sermons. What do we, who sit in the pews, do to prepare for his sermon? The first thing we should do is get proper sleep the night before the worship service. Secondly, we should prepare our mind, heart, and body for God's message. And finally, pray earnestly to God the Holy Spirit, asking him to help us receive God's message with an open heart and thus enable us to understand, appreciate, and believe what we hear. His message is very important for us and our faith. As James says: ***“Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”***

Your caring elders,

Jim Beitlich, Tom Di Iorio, and Ralph Stellick

St. Matthews Church Council Meeting

May 14, 2018

Council members present: Pastor Schmitzer, Principal James Otto, Larry Soucheck, Ralph Stellick, Mike Alderman, Pastor Liggett, Sam Vanden Heuvel, Mike Everson, John Shepherd, and Doug Miller.

Meeting called to order by Pastor Liggett at 6:45 pm.

Devotion read by Pastor Schmitzer based on John 15:4. "No good if we are detached"

Secretary's report: attached; MSP.

Treasurer's report: attached: MSP. Discussion on future budget, long discussion on calculating planned expenditures and putting together a realistic budget.

Pastor's report: attached, highlights- 1. Discussed work throughout the month. 2. Preparation for special services such as confirmation and graduation. 3. Western Wisconsin district convention scheduled June 4th and 5th, needing a lay delegate. 4. Upcoming events, Charles Bono December 23rd in looking at school of Outreach in October and February. 5. Church survey.

Elder's report: Working with the delinquents.

Outreach Oversight Committee: 1. Memorial Day parade needing volunteers. 2. Outdoor service.

Principal's report: attached, highlights: 1. Observations for teachers conducted and sent to Synod. 2. Special fund raising from Fiesta Mexicana raised \$300 for play room equipment. 3. School applications discussed. 4. Playground build day June 9th.

School board report: attached

Luther High School: Attached with highlights. 1. 4% which is an increase. 2. 63 freshman enrolled. 3. TV and radio and billboards have been successful.

Building and grounds: 1. Planning on survey of the grounds and buildings to see what needs to be done. 2. Wood chips for the playground to be delivered.

Cemetery Sextant report; discussed general maintenance of the grounds and building.

Planned Giving: \$ 4900 in tuition assistance distributed. This is a rate of 350 dollars per student at Luther High School and MLC.

Old Business: None discussed

New Business: 1. Gym light quote- MSP to have building and grounds evaluate and agree to go ahead if they feel that it is a good quote. 2. Organize building and grounds committee and to evaluate week of the 20th. 3. Survey presented by Pastor.

Next meeting: June 11, 2018 at 6:30

Adjourned with prayer at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Miller, Secretary

Luther

Conference of delegates meeting, 5-9-2018

Luther financial report: Income and expenses are where they should be at this point in the school year. 2018-2019 school budget. A 4% tuition increase plus an additional 40 chromebooks. An increase of 2% staff salary per synod code. Budget approved.

Capital Campaign: Currently 6.4 million pledged and received gifts.

Principles report: 63 freshman enrollees which is unchanged since the last meeting. 14 students in the parental choice program.

Board of control discussed the possibility of have a middle school program at Luther. The idea was shelved.

Luther Foundation: Total funds, 3.589 million. STEF fund balance, 1.3 million. Building fund, 260 thousand.

Luther TV, radio and billboard ads have been successful.

Good Steward revenue growth has slowed after a year in the new store, but still a substantial increase from the previous location. Store looking for a coordinator. 24 hours per week. Contact Pastor Sachs.

WELS

whataboutjesus.com

Ascended into heaven

Why are class reunions fun? Certainly part of it is seeing people whom you haven't seen for a while, and seeing how they've changed! Without fail there's a person or two whom you don't recognize, because they just don't look the way they used to look. It's true—we tend to remember people the way they looked the last time we saw them.

So what's the last "sight" that the disciples saw of Jesus? It happened like this.

After Jesus rose from his grave, he spent some time with his disciples, but not a lot. He would appear, teach, and talk for a while. And then he'd allow them to "be on their own" for several days. This happened for 40 days.

When those 40 days were over, Jesus took the disciples to the Mount of Olives just outside of Jerusalem. There "he lifted up his hands and blessed them." What would the disciples see on those hands? Why, of course—the nail marks from the crucifixion.

Then while he was blessing them "he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight." Can you imagine? All of a sudden he just goes up into the sky! What power!

And notice, the account doesn't say that he eventually got so far away that they couldn't see him. Rather, the cloud covered him, so that—even though they could no longer see him with their eyes—he was still there.

Now remember, this was the last time the disciples would see Jesus, so this was the sight which would stick with them. Do you think it would help them?

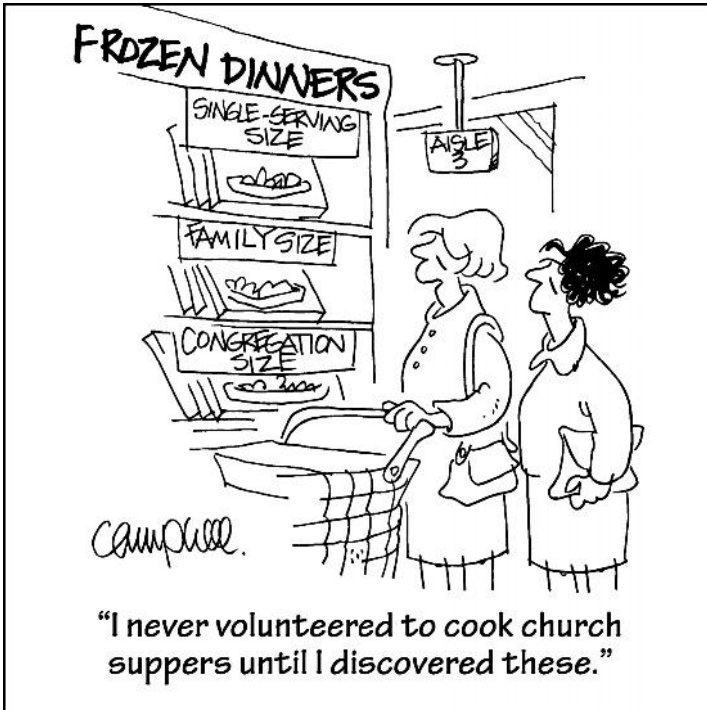
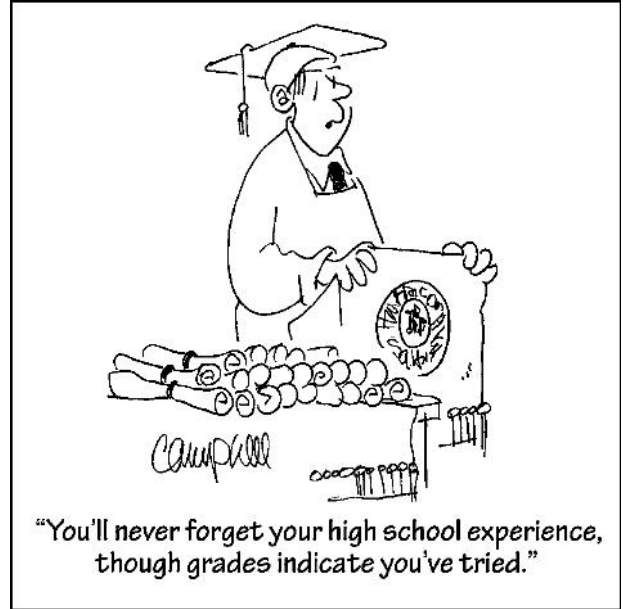
Well, think of all the truths of which Jesus reminded them. By ascending up into the sky, Jesus reminded them that he is all-powerful, that he rules all things. The hands up, in blessing, reminded them that he is watching out for their good! He will always have their best interests in mind. The fact that the cloud covered him reminded them that he really was with them, always. And don't forget the nail marks, the proof that the disciples' sins were forgiven! Because of that, they would spend an eternity with Jesus in heaven. Do you think that all this would have helped the disciples as they faced the days ahead? Without doubt! And certainly that "sight" of Jesus lifts our spirits too.

But there's one more point about Jesus' ascension, a point which we'd hate to miss ... that he is coming again!

JUNE



Happy Father's Day!





Coloring Page

Happy
Father's
Day

