



# THE VOICE

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October 2017

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## PASTORAL MESSAGE Rev. Allen Mothershed

And They Cast Their Crowns before the Throne  
*And they lay their crowns before the throne and say,  
"You are worthy, O Lord our God,  
to receive glory and honor and power.  
For you created all things,  
and they exist because you created what you pleased."*  
(Revelation 4: 10-11)

Susan Wold shared with me her excitement this year about a new focus on teaching our children how to worship God. This comes with a new awareness on her part of the true meaning of worship, which is rather far from what most of us call **worship. True worship is centered around God, becoming aware of God's presence, character, power, and love.** It has very little to do with us, what we want, **the style of our music, or the way the pastor preaches, or even our "getting" anything from worship to "see us through the week."** The profound meaning of worship is summarized by the verse from Revelation in which all of heaven and earth are focused on praising God for who God is as it has been revealed to us through what God has done:

*"You are worthy, O Lord, our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For You created all things, and they existed because You created what You pleased."*

Note that praise is not exactly the same thing as thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is thanking God for what God has done. Praise is a dimension beyond this. Praise is **an appreciation of the very nature of God. It is an acknowledgment of God's awesomeness.** When we praise God we find ourselves humbled and aware that we are nothing close to God. As wonderful as we are and our life is, when compared to God our place is far from central. It is no accident that worship in the above scripture begins with **"they lay down their crowns before the throne."**

Such humbling of ourselves is not about having a diminished sense of self and groveling in shame for who we are. Rather it is knowing our true place and value in relation to God, who is the one who has given us life and sustains life for us. What we receive from worship is a gift of freedom to no longer have to live as if we are in the center or to imagine that life depends on us. When we have reverence for God (a sense of awe and respect), we learn to have reverence for our own lives and every living being.

(Cont'd. on pg. 2)

The problem for our world is that we often want to make ourselves or other human powers or entities the center. How opposite is this understanding of worship to most Christians who approach worship as something that should “please me” rather than God? I do not think we would have “worship wars” over music style, as so many churches have had, if we really believed we gather to worship as a way of casting off our thrones and focusing on God. I also believe that if we centered ourselves in praise and thanksgiving of the One God, we would not be so exhausted when we drag ourselves to church on Sunday after a long week of feeling like we needed to be more than human in our job and our family.

I invite you to come to worship this year with this reflection in mind. Come to worship with a desire to praise God and be filled with thanksgiving. Begin worship and end with worship with an offering of yourself to the only One worthy of our focus. You might simply begin and end **worship with a simple phrase, “I praise You, God, for You alone are God and worthy of praise.”** Even now, before dwelling in heaven, we join in the chorus of praise in heaven. Amen.

Blessings,  
Pastor Allen

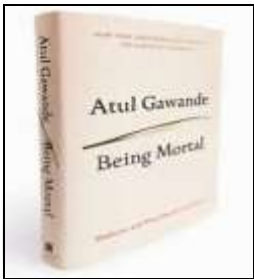


SERMON SERIES: "Attitudes of the Heart"

Second Series: Thanksgiving and Generosity  
October

1st	Deuteronomy 8: 7-18	Not Forgetting God
8th	Luke 17: 11-19	The Healing of the Lepers
15th	2 Corinthians 9: 6-15	How to Take Up the Offering
22nd	Matthew 5: 43-48	No Boundaries on Love
29th	Romans 3: 19-28	Saved by Faith through Grace

## ADULT EDUCATION



BOOK STUDY  
“Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming the dangers of childbirth, injury, and disease from harrowing to manageable. But when it comes to the inescapable realities of aging and death, what medicine can do often runs counter to what it should. Riveting, honest and humane, Being Mortal shows how the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life - all the way to the very end.”

Please join us for a book study and discussion at Adult Education looking into these issues and more. Wednesdays, October 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th at 7pm.  
Copies of the book, Being Mortal by Atul Gawande, will be available for purchase in the office.  
Please read chapters one and two before the first meeting.

# NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM



Open Choir Sing Sunday. At this writing, we just finished our first Open Choir Sing of the fall. Many of you expressed your gratitude for the wonderful anthem that was presented. I too was very happy at the quickness that everyone learned the anthem. Our

next Open Sing is October 15th. Please plan to be there. If you would like to get email reminders, please send your email address to me at [jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org).

Cantata rehearsals start on Wednesday, October 4th, at 7:30pm. If you would like to join us, please just show up. This year the cantata has been written by our own Brian Dobbelaere, based on the song "Peace Child" which we sang as a congregation a few years ago. We hope to see you at rehearsal.

Peace,

Jamie  
630.202.6788  
[jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org)

## WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

### Tuesday

IntergeneRingers  
6pm

Chancel Ringers  
7:30pm

### Wednesday

Praise Band  
6:30pm

Sanctuary Choir  
7:30pm

# MISSION NEWS



## FOOD ON THE FIRST

Thanks to all who donated in the month of September. Here is what is requested for October.

- Ketchup
- Small jars of mayonnaise
- Mustard
- Canned peaches
- Canned pineapple
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream
- Feminine pads (no tampons)

Make sure items are not expired and packages are unopened.

Please call Betty Greer, [630.682.4084](tel:630.682.4084), if you have any questions.

Blessings to all.

## ESSE

Many thanks to those who volunteered at ESSE in September: Kenna Anderson, Lee Anderson, Jan Beaton, Tracey Blake, Wendy Fanning, Betty Greer, and Carol Honeywell. ESSE guests SO appreciated the treats, as well as your gift of time!

The 21st Annual ESSE Pancake Breakfast is right around the corner, so get your tickets NOW! The Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 11th from 7:30-11:00am, at St. Paul Lutheran Church (515 S. Wheaton Ave.). Tickets are \$5 each, and the event includes a silent auction and raffle baskets. Please contact Dawn Schubert if you would like tickets.

## PRAIRIE PATH

Many thanks to those who have helped with the Prairie Path Cleanups. Our last cleanup of 2017 (#4) will take place on Sunday, October 22nd. We will meet at 2pm (shorter days)! Hope to see you at the corner of West and Liberty (across from the 7-Eleven, but NOT in their parking lot please).

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

In addition to the wonderful Rally Day kickoff to the church year, we welcomed new St. Matthew members. Please be sure to introduce yourself to these new members:

Karen & Bernie Rudnik  
Bernie Tameling  
Lisa & Pieter Miller (children Cameron & Linnea)  
Meg Beile

During the service, we also celebrated Alex Alavi's baptism and reaffirmation of his membership.

## UPDATES & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### Movie Fans, Mark Your Calendars

If you enjoy a good movie and want to see one with your friends, we plan to watch the movie The Shack in the St. Matthew sanctuary on Sunday, October 1st at 6:30pm. Families interested in attending are encouraged to bring a snack to share. This PG-13 movie takes the viewer on a father's uplifting spiritual journey.

### Informal Gathering Over Dinner

We had a sold-out (25 people) informal event at Pal Joey's along the Fox River in Batavia in August. The event was well-received, leading us to plan more casual events to share between St. Matthew friends. Our next event is planned for **Thursday, November 9th at Cooper's Corner**, a Winfield/Wheaton restaurant. More details to follow.

### Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

We are still looking for volunteers to help set up or clean up our Sunday coffee hour. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Rob Neufelder, 630.355.9684 or rneufelder@ipmcinc.com.



### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Kevin Bute
5	Doug Miller
14	Bill Beaton
15	Kerin Sanken
16	Lynn Thornton
17	Rocio Chumas Lou Holland
18	Cameron Rosenthal
22	Cheryl Heck
23	Sarah Muntz Greg Henderson
25	John Umbeck
26	Amy Barnshaw Abby Jung Bernard Rudnik
28	John Kouns Monte Schroer
30	Carol Young

## Euchre

We continue to play Euchre on an every-other month interval. All experience levels are welcome. **Participants are encouraged to bring their own drink and a snack to share. We've retired the trophy** and instead play for fun and fellowship. The next date for Euchre Night is, Friday November 3rd at 7pm. We hope to see you there.



## PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

If you are like some of us who have a limited income, this is the fundraiser for you. The retailers donate to our church, so it's a way to make your dollars stretch to include a little extra for St. Matthew.

**No need to buy things you really don't want. THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU SHOP EVERY WEEK, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY FOR YOUR GROCERIES AND GAS, AND BUY THOSE CARDS!**

If you are a SCRIP participant, thank you for your continuing support. If you have not tried it yet, stop by the table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday for more information on this no-cost fundraiser!



## NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached in October is "The Girl who Takes an Eye for an Eye" by David Lagercrantz. The tension, power and unstoppable force of this book are inspired by Stieg Larson's *Millennium* trilogy as Lizbeth Salander and Mikael Blomkvist continue to fight for justice that has thrilled readers around the world. (MacLehose Press)

*All are welcome, join us for fellowship, food and friendly discussion.*

DATE: Friday, October 20th - 7:30 pm.

PLACE: The Boyds

510 S. Aurora Way, Wheaton

## STEWARDSHIP 2018 - LEAN ON ME

Everyone knows the song, *Lean on Me*. **Most of us can sing it. "Lean on me, when you're not strong, and I'll be your friend. I'll help you carry on..."** Sometimes it is the catchy tune that draws us to a song, but I think it is the words of this song that cause us to remember it. Who among us does not feel that need at times in our life to have others we can lean on?

One of our great blessings in life is having a church like St. Matthew where we can lean on each other and Christ in times of need. Our church community is there for our young children, giving **them stories of faith that assure them that this is God's world** - one we can trust. Our youth learn their value to God and many find their life's purpose by learning to lean on others in the youth group. **In all the challenges, including the ups and downs of adulthood, we learn again of God's forgiveness and grace when we gather and lean on each other at St. Matthew.** One day we will lean on the community of faith when it is time to close our eyes one last time and trust that on the other side God is waiting for us.

**So we are excited to announce that the theme for this year's Stewardship campaign is *Lean on Me*.** Christ brings us together in community to encourage and support one another. Join us in worship October 22nd and 29th when you will hear stories reflecting times when the church was there to **be leaned on. We'll culminate our campaign on November 5th, Commitment Sunday**, when we will each dedicate our expected giving commitment and dedicate our time and talent for 2018.

-Stewardship Committee



## LOOKING FOR LIVING SPACE - YOUR HELP NEEDED

We are trying to help a highly educated and reliable young Turkish couple find a place to live while they are applying for asylum and before they can secure jobs. They have lost all their assets in Turkey, as they recently fled the country in fear for their lives. They need a room with a shower, bathroom, access to kitchen, and ideally with a living space. The woman has asthma and is allergic to pets. Please contact Alex Alavi at 630.772.4449 or [alex.alavi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alex.alavi@sbcglobal.net) if you can help.

In a recent political crackdown and power consolidation in Turkey, more than 180 media outlets and 2,000 universities and schools have been shut down. In addition, more than 140,000 people have been discharged from jobs and 125,000, including journalists, academics, and judges/prosecutors have been detained. Many have fled the country to various destinations, including Chicago, in fear for their lives.

## RALLY DAY 2017







## Organ Dedication Will Be a Celebration of Music and Generosity

By Lee Staton, Church Council President

During our worship service on October 15<sup>th</sup>, we will officially dedicate our new organ and honor the donors whose generosity made it possible. This is the story behind that celebration.

Last fall our congregation was in an accelerated race against time, of which many people were unaware. Those who knew about the problem worried that the crucial point could come on any Sunday. Our organ, in use since the congregation moved into the then-new sanctuary in the early 1990s, was failing.

Organist Brian Dobbelaere and music director Jamie Craig were acutely aware of the problem. So was Joe Hall, who had spent countless hours repairing the organ to keep it going, a task that required increasing ingenuity since the manufacturer was out of business and parts were no longer available.

**As Jamie noted, the old organ was “past dead. We knew we were on borrowed time.”**



So in mid-2016 a committee started looking for a replacement, consulting several companies and traveling to churches and showrooms throughout the area to hear and play state-of-the-art instruments with capabilities that had increased exponentially since 1990. The committee decided on a Rodgers-brand organ from Triune Music in Elmhurst and brought a recommendation to the church council. But the price – close to \$70,000 – raised an important question: how to pay for it and whether we could raise the money before the old instrument died.

As the congregation debated that daunting challenge and whether we could get by without an organ, two long-time church families – the Mooks and the Halls – stepped up and offered to pay for the new instrument. An additional contribution from the estate of former member Tom Thomas rounded out the fund.

Between them, Dave and Diane Mook and Joe and Marge Hall represent 90 years of dedication to our congregation. The Halls chose St. Matthew when they moved to this area in 1967, with the Mooks coming 10 years later in 1977. All four have served as council president. They have filled numerous other leadership and service positions in the church and the community.

When asked what motivated their generous donations to purchase the organ, all four cite the importance of music – and the organ – **to the church. “We could not envision a church without an organ,” Joe says. Diane Mook calls music “the glue that holds the service together.”**

Music director Jamie Craig says everyone – not just those in the music ministry – should be grateful for the donations that made the new organ possible. **“It was an amazing gift to the church,”** he says. And organist Brian Dobbelaere knows the value of the new instrument as well as anyone. **“It’s like going from a 78 RPM record to a CD player,” Brian says. “It’s leaps and bounds better.”**

By happy coincidence, the new organ arrived shortly after St. Matthew acquired a brand new piano – **at no cost, due to a manufacturer’s flaw in the previous instrument. “The church is in fantastic shape with instruments,” Joe says. “Now we just need more voices (to sing in the choirs).”**



# CHILDREN & YOUTH

Thank you to Kenna Anderson and Dawn Schubert for leading the children while I was **away this summer. Your dedication to Children's Ministry is such a blessing. I would** also like to say a big thank you to Kelley Passini, Kira Mothershed and Ethan Woods for being year around shepherds in Sunday school. Your help with the children is much needed and I am so grateful for you.

## Workshop Rotation

Our rotation lesson *Adam, Eve and God* continues through October 22nd with workshops in games, video, cooking, drama, storytelling and art. On October 29th we will begin our five-week rotation on the *Ten Commandments*.



## Going Green in Sunday School

We continue going green in Sunday School by creating recycled crafts, following our no-helium balloon rule and maintaining our butterfly garden. We will continue throughout the year, teaching the children that we are caretakers of God's creations.



Sunday, October 29th

3-4:30pm

Trick or Treat from car to car, then come inside for games, snacks and crafts

Pop your trunk, decorate it with a fun Halloween theme and pass out candy to the children who trick or treat from car to car. This safe and fun outreach shows the community that families are important to us at St. Matthew.

Sign-up in the narthex for trunk decorating and candy donations.

Susan Wold,  
Director of Children's Ministry



OCTOBER  
BIRTHDAYS

10/14

Andrew Woods

Anna Ortman

10/16

Adrienne Hammond

10/31

Cameron Miller

Open To The Community

Please Join Us For Fun and Fellowship

# TRUNK OR TREAT

Candy - Games - Snacks - Fun!

**Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

**3:00-4:30pm**

**St. Matthew UCC  
1420 S. Gables Blvd., Wheaton**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO BRING YOUR FAMILY TO A SAFE AND CREATIVE  
TRICK-OR-TREAT EVENT.**

**OUR PARKING LOT WILL BE FULL OF DECORATED CAR TRUNKS  
AND LOTS OF CANDY FOR ALL.**



630.665.1236



office@stmatthewucc.org



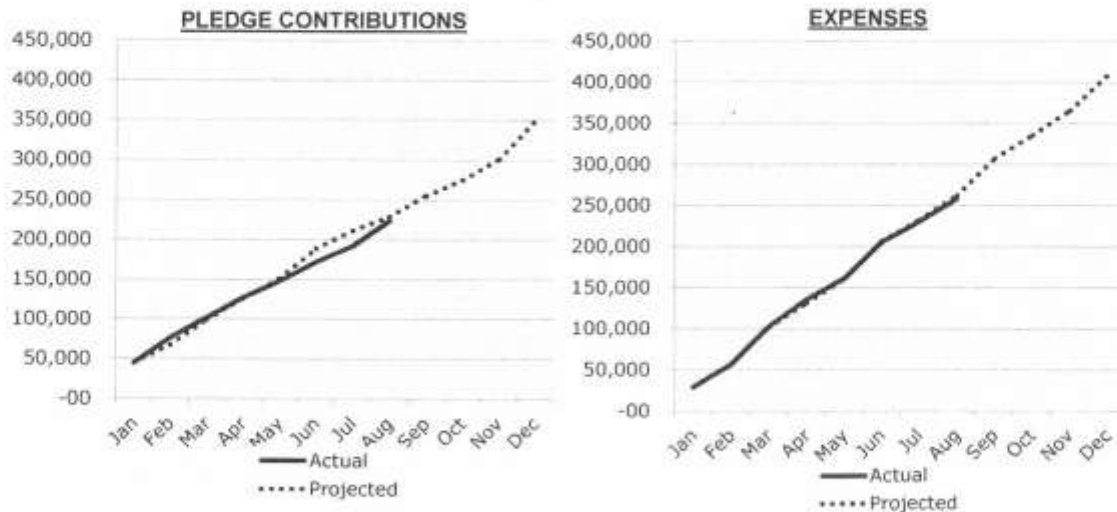
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**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ending August 31, 2017

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b><u>RECEIPTS:</u></b>			
Pledge Contributions	31,578	223,792	350,000
Loose Offerings	482	2,601	10,000
Rental Income	230	2,500	3,300
Fund Raising	134	1,807	4,000
Investment Income	66	1,648	300
More Property	-00	21,000	21,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	5,481	5,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>32,490</b>	<b>258,828</b>	<b>393,600</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURES:</u></b>			
Ministry	17,468	152,666	234,971
Building	7,261	67,758	102,216
Loans & Notes	-00	13,375	26,750
Mission / OCWM	2,175	17,795	26,950
Committees:			
Christian Education	199	4,064	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	53	819	3,000
Music	555	1,642	4,200
Worship	-00	403	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>27,710</b>	<b>258,523</b>	<b>408,787</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$4,780</b>	<b>\$305</b>	<b>\$(15,187)</b>

**2017 Activity - Actual vs. Projected**



*Please contact Howard Peterson if you have questions or need additional information.*



# OCTOBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30am Worship Service WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY  6pm crazies  6:30pm Congregational Life Movie Night	2     7pm Christian Education  7pm Building	3   7pm Membership  7:30pm Mission	4 1pm <b>Women's Prayer</b> Group  7pm Adult Education Book Study  7:30pm Cantata Rehearsal	5	6	7
8 9:30am Worship Service BELL SUNDAY     6pm crazies	9	10	11 1pm <b>Women's Prayer</b> Group  PADS  7pm Adult Education Book Study  7:30pm Cantata Rehearsal	12 PADS	13	14
15 8:15am Open Choir 9:30am Worship Service ORGAN DEDICATION SUNDAY  Memorial Committee Mtg.  VOICE ARTICLES DUE  6pm crazies	16    6pm SRC 7pm Council	17	18  1pm <b>Women's Prayer</b> Group  7pm Adult Education Book Study  7:30pm Cantata Rehearsal	19	20    7pm Novel Approaches	21
22 9:30am Worship Service  2pm Prairie Path Cleanup   6pm crazies	23	24  1pm Digital Committee Meeting	25 1pm <b>Women's Prayer</b> Group  7pm Adult Education Book Study  7:30pm Cantata Rehearsal	26	27	28
29 9:30am Worship Service    3-4:30pm Trunk or Treat  6pm crazies	30	31  TUESDAY NIGHTS  6pm Intergene- Ringers  7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS  6:30pm Praise Band  7:30pm Sanctuary Choir			



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Find us at: [www.stmatthewucc.org](http://www.stmatthewucc.org)  
Facebook, Pinterest and YouTube



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St. Matthew United Church of Christ  
630.665.1236 (Office)

Office Email:  
[office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org)

Office Hours:  
Monday-Thursday: 9am-4pm  
Friday: 9am-1pm

Sunday Worship: 9:30am  
Sunday Church School: 10am

Our Purpose:

*Become, Live, and Serve as Disciples  
of Jesus Christ.*

Our Identity:

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's  
journey, you are welcome and accepted here at  
St. Matthew United Church of Christ.***

### STAFF

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