

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

2440 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania

Organized - January 1, 1833
A Community Church for 185 Years

ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION
Sunday, January 27, 2019

Rev. Thaddeus Book - Pastor

Daniel Bower - Director of Music

Sheila Lanzalotto - Joint Youth Director

Paula Reese - Office Administrator

Kyle Dewees - Sexton

Sandy Elkins - St. Matthew's School Director

Phone: 610-458-5675 ♦ Fax: 610-458-2472

www.stmatthews-church.org

2018 Council

President – Eric Ramsey
 Vice President – Louise Rutledge
 Treasurer – Ed Mourar
 Andrew Aramany
 James Davis
 Sue Giacomponello
 Colleen DeBerardinis
 Jeanne Maugle
 Meghan Comegys

Ministry Team Leaders

Mission In – Sue Hummerston
 Property – James Davis
 Outreach – Skip Craft
 Technology – John Lueders
 Evangelism
 Finance – Andrew Aramany & Ed Mourar
 Stewardship
 Community Life
 Worship & Music
 Youth – Sheila Lanzalotto

St. Matthew's Mission and Vision 2020 Statements

Mission Statement

God calls St. Matthew's congregation and community to:

Be engaged in joyful service to God's world through faith in Jesus Christ.

Vision Statement

We will commit ourselves through our time, talents and financial support to:

**Put God's Word into action*

**Foster communication, in order to inform and connect people to ministry*

**Express God's love and fulfill God's mission by generously
serving one another locally & globally*

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Opening Prayer and Devotions
- 2) Setting a Quorum
- 3) Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes
- 4) Questions on Committee Reports
- 5) 2019 Budget
- 6) Nominations and Election of 2019 Council Members
- 7) Adjournment & The Lord's Prayer

REPORT OF THE PASTOR

This past year proved to be a time of transition for St. Matthew's. We said goodbye to our administrator, Audrey Subhan, so she could open a dog day care in Phoenixville. Our incredible music director Dave Mackie moved on after 15 years of faithfully sharing his incredible musical talents. And of course Pastor Tina left at the end of June. She was a great gift serving as an intern, associate, solo and most recently as a senior pastor. She was a great gift to both the congregation and to me during my first four years here. It was sad to see so many of our staff leave this year and we grieve their loss. I miss the collegial conversations Pastor Tina and I had each week, Dave's incredible ability to play multiple instruments incredibly well and Audrey's willingness to take on any task in the office with a smile.

But I am reminded again and again that we are a people of resurrection. Out of sad endings come new beginnings. The loss of those three meant that new people with unique gifts were able to step into those roles and make them their own. Paula Reese came over from the pre-school right before Easter to become our new administrator. She has done an incredible job filling that role incredibly well. Daniel Bower has stepped in as our music director and has done a wonderful job making the role his own. He brings unique gifts that have already begun to bear fruit. His transition has been made much smoother by the praise team and choir. In many ways this is a credit to Dave's leadership because he prepared all of our musicians to handle this change. Pastor Tina's loss has been more difficult because we will not (at least for the time being) have another pastor joining our staff. However, it has allowed members of the congregation to step up the 2nd half of last year. I was called as Senior Pastor towards the end of the year and look forward to the vision together what God would have us do and where God would have us go.

In the midst of all of these transitions, St. Matthew's continues to be a vibrant faith community. Our outreach ministries continue to find new and unique ways to reach out to our local community and to the world, our youth and family ministries continue to engage more and more people, and our worship continues work hard to connect to our everyday lives.

A few highlights from the past year:

-We gathered a great small group around the book "Being Mortal". We had thoughtful and engaging conversation around what it means to live and how we die well. Not an easy topic but a helpful one.

-Both youth summer mission trips were impactful. We had our 20 high school youth from St. Matt's and St. Paul's attend the national youth gathering. It was great to hear so many stories about the ways the trip to Houston impacted them. I attended the middle school mission trip to Harrisburg. It was a great week of learning about the many ministries that are working in the community and then engaging in those ministries. It was a great opportunity to learn about the Harrisburg area and get to know one another a bit better as well.

-We gathered a welcome/fellowship team that is committed to helping visitors transition easily into the life of the congregation as well as connect long time members to the ministries of the church. This team asked some great questions and the energy of this team accomplished a lot this year.

I am excited to see the ways God is worked through us in 2018 and I enthusiastically look forward to the ways God will move in our midst in the New Year. One of our greatest gifts as a congregation is our ability to listen to where God is calling us next and then move eagerly towards that place.

See you there!

Pastor Thadd

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The closing paragraph of my 2017 report read as follows:

In closing, 2017 was another blessed year in the life of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. I am proud to call this my church home and hope you are as well. Where the past several years had themes around stabilizing, persevering, and progressing I have faith that 2018, while not without challenge, will have a theme of growth and new opportunities for St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. I encourage you to consider ways to engage in that excitement!

This year has proven to be challenging yet very rewarding at the same time.

In June we said a heartfelt goodbye to our Senior Pastor, Tina Mackie as well as Music Director, David Mackie. Both had been longstanding and beloved leaders at St. Matthew's and have been missed since their departures. In addition to the departure of Tina and David we have also seen a significant reduction in our offerings throughout the year. The council has worked hard to trim the budget which is detailed in the finance report. The close monitoring of the budget and an emphasis on giving opportunities takes us into 2019 on steady ground with a balanced budget.

We used the summer, typically a slower time in the church calendar, to form a Pastoral Transition Team and work through the process to call our next pastor. This team committed several hours to capture and articulate the needs of our congregation regarding its leadership. The team generated a report that will be used to shape our objectives in 2019 and made a recommendation to call Pastor Thadd Book as St. Matthew's Pastor! Simultaneously a music committee was formed to work in the same vain with our church's worship needs and identified Daniel Bower as our next music director!

In October the Congregation voted to call Pastor Thadd as the next Pastor at St. Matthew's! Thadd will bring his energy and enthusiasm and lead us into the next phase of the life of St. Matthew's and I'm am excited to see where we are heading!

As I reflect on my fourth and final year delivering this report I think about the words I've used to describe each of the previous years and struggle to come up with a word or phrase to describe 2018. At the beginning of the year the council set out with a focus on extending the community of St. Matthew's and facilitating our members spiritual encounter among other objectives. I think we've used the challenges and changes as an opportunity to come together in community resulting in an increased spiritual encounter. So, looking back at the last paragraph of my 2017 report I feel comfortable in saying while not without challenge, 2018 was a year of growth and new opportunities for St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and I am grateful that you have engaged in that excitement!

Yours in Christ,

Eric Ramsey

SMLC Council President

REPORT FROM DIRECTOR of MUSIC

Dear St. Matthews,

I can't believe I've been here 7 months already!

Last June Laura & Lincoln approached me at the Library after a music story time. She asked if I'd ever consider a music director position at a church. The knee jerk reaction was HECK NO! What church wants a drummer/children's music performer to lead their music!?! It wasn't that I had any negative premonitions about the job or the church. I just didn't think that my particular set of gifts lent themselves to that kind of job. Also, it never really occurred to me that I'd ever do anything besides sing for kids and drum for bands.

Well, it only took a few short weeks this past summer as the Interim Music Director to realize how wrong I was. With the loving support of the Praise Band, Pastor Thadd & Staff I've been empowered to not only embrace the position effectively but, also see a real future with such exciting potential for growth here at St. Matt's. In October I was honored & elated to take the job. Every week the repertoire deepens as I continue to learn so much more.

So, thank you. THANK YOU for accepting me & my musical efforts into your worship. I assure you it means the world to me. My wife, Elise & two year old, Harvey, are pretty psyched too! I intend to honor the roll to the best of my ability as long as you'll have me.

So there you have it, I was wrong, Laura & Lincoln. And let me tell you I've never been so happy to be wrong in my life :)

**Sincerely,
Daniel S. Bower
Music Director**

YOUTH

We are midway through our third year of a joint youth program with St Paul's and the youth and parents have gotten very used to the idea. Other than Confirmation and Faith Formation, all our youth activities are joint with St Paul's. This year we joined them for Vacation Bible School and hope to continue this tradition going forward.

The big "event" in 2018 was the ELCA Youth Gathering. Twenty one high school youth and five adults spent five days in Houston with 30,820 other Lutherans. We did a full day of service in addition to a day of faith formation with our synod and a day following an interactive track designed to further our faith in a fun, active way. It was life changing for all those that attended and, despite five medical emergencies, was amazing. In addition to our usual fundraisers, we held a silent auction, sold calendars, had a penny war with St Matthew's, did an envelope drive, ran the Easter breakfast, had a pancake breakfast and held monthly dine-in events to raise money for the trip. We thank everyone that supported us!

High school youth met at least twice a month for youth group and/or service activities and enjoyed swim parties. Middle school youth joined the high school youth for fundraising events such as the chili cook-off, car washes and the spaghetti dinner. They also had fun at the trampoline park, playing laser tag and swimming to start/end the school year. Some youth delivered food boxes to the Care Center in West Chester for Easter and Thanksgiving. The young youth enjoyed monthly activities such as bowling, trampoline jumping, Easter egg hunt, sheep and wool day, outdoor movie/s'mores night, swim parties, Milky Way Farms and an ornament making/Christmas party.

We started 2018 with the Chili Cook-Off held at St Paul's which raised approximately \$1,100. More than 120 people came out to eat and judge the 20 chili entries. More than 20 youth helped out that evening.

In February, 13 high school youth raised over \$1,600 For World Vision by participating in a 30 hour famine. During that time we did service projects such as baking cookies to send to college students as part of care packages and working with the Chester County Food bank to provide after school snack bags and lunch bags.

In March, 21 middle school and high school youth attended the synod retreat in Harvey Cedars NJ, along with five adults. Because of a major Nor'easter, the retreat was delayed until Saturday morning, but we still had a great time. We enjoyed getting to know each other better and exploring our faith. Twenty five youth and adults went to see the movie "I Can Only Imagine", which is a phenomenal story of God's transforming love. The response was wonderful and we will be offering another movie event (Breakthrough) in 2019. It was great to have some adults join the youth in this activity.

More than 80 young youth enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt (more than 1,600 eggs) with the high school youth stuffing and hiding the eggs and providing story time.

We held two car washes in June (one at each church), raising more than \$1,100 between St Matthew's and St. Paul's. Many dirty cars were washed by more than 37 youth and adults. More than 50 youth and adults from St Paul's and St Matthew's attended a Reading Phillies game which was a great inter-generational event.

In July, 14 middle school youth and three adults went to Harrisburg on a service mission trip. Most of our time was spent working to beautify the Alison Hill neighborhood. It was a great experience for everyone involved despite two trips to the Urgent Care, which added to the fun!

In August, a rotating group of about twenty middle school youth and five different adults worked doing daily service at Chester County Women's Center, Pete's Produce, Hickory Park and Honeybrook Food Bank. September featured movie/s'mores nights at St Paul's for the young youth and the high school youth. It is great to have a fire pit.

The third annual joint spaghetti dinner was held in November and more than \$1,200 was raised. We fed about 125 people and had almost 50 volunteers. Thank you to everyone that donated food, beverages, cash and/or their time. November was a busy month for the youth as 12 high school youth stayed at St Matthew's for a lock in after the Spaghetti dinner and then went to Camp Innabah for a one night retreat with 3 adults. We learned how to shoot a bow and arrow, participated in a scavenger hunt and talked about the Enneagram. Eleven middle school youth attended the synod Junior Youth Gathering at Tel Hai, along with 3 adults.

Approximately 30 high school and middle school youth led a Christmas Carol sing along at the Rejoicing Spirits service and at Simpson Meadows. This year we joined up with two other local churches which added to the experience. We celebrated the season with a Christmas pizza party and distributed crafts made by the young youth.

I have been blessed with some great adults helping with Youth ministry and with the support of the staff and members of both congregations. Without them, we could not do what we do. Thank you.

Sheila Lanzalotto aka Mrs. L

SAINT MATTHEW'S CEMETERY

Checking – 1/1/18	\$ 2,881.90
Thrivent	\$ 10,502.18
Lot Sales	\$ 2,400.00
Income	\$ 2,419.96
Grounds Up Keep	\$ 7,321.35
Checking – 12/31/18	\$ 5,380.51
Wells Fargo	\$ 26,013.92
Thrivent	\$ 10,228.00
DNB Trust	\$104,789.30

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Dewees
Secretary/Treasurer

PROPERTY REPORT

What a blessing from our Lord it is to be able to worship in such a fantastic facility. In a year full of changes and transitions, our Church Property and buildings once again served us well and we were fortunate not to have any major issues or repairs (knock on your pew). We did not plan any significant capital improvements again in 2018 due to other priorities in the budget. We did perform the required and routine maintenance for the church and its equipment and all of that has been accomplished. We believe that maintenance spending for vital equipment and components such as HVAC equipment, plumbing systems and the building envelope is a worthwhile investment and will save the church significantly down the road. We also took further steps to standardize our annual maintenance needs to take advantage of discounts. Contracts for lawn maintenance and snow removal were renewed and the church is certainly benefiting from prompt and quality service from our vendors. We continue to pay our bills promptly to encourage good service.

For 2019 and beyond, we will look to continue our maintenance plan as well as address issues as they arise. For budget purposes, we will again take a minimalist approach to capital improvements but there are items that will need to be addressed in the coming years. We will attempt to capture those as soon as funds become available. And of course there are still plenty of small tasks and items on our 'to do' list that could become a DIY project should any talented volunteers be revealed. Please let myself or Jim Rutledge know if you have any interest in getting involved with the property committee. We would be glad to put you to work!

Lastly, I have completed my terms on Council and I would like to thank my fellow Council members for their leadership and our time together. I love our church and we are lucky to have such great leaders. It was a blessing to serve...most of the time. I will continue to lead the Property Committee moving forward and will remain prepared to handle any issues with the facility or property. If you are interested in helping our committee in any way, please reach out to Jim Rutledge or myself.

Faithfully submitted,
James Davis
Property

REPORT FROM OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Outreach Ministry has continued to serve our neighbors throughout 2018 in support of the following ministries:

- American Red Cross Blood Drive
- Christmas Presents for Silver Springs Martin Luther School
- Community Garden for Local Food Pantries
- Food Pantry Donations
- Meals for St. Mary's Shelter
- Thanksgiving at Holy Communion Church in Philadelphia

Thanks to our donors for your efforts to support these programs year after year. Because of you, St. Matthews Outreach Ministry is able to reach out and continue to serve our community. Our vision is to profess the human value and interconnectedness of all members of society and to actively support the transformation of who we are and how we see the world in order to live in harmony with God, fellow human beings, and all creation.

"No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us." 1 John 4, 12

Respectfully submitted,
Skp Craft and committee members: Mary Kwiatkowski, Bob McDevitt, Patrick Miller, Jim Rutledge

REPORT FROM ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL

St. Matthew's School has continued to flourish as an outreach of our church. During our sixteenth year of operation we served 164 families with 194 children attending preschool and Kindergarten. We employed 31 staff members as teachers, assistants, substitutes and an Administrative Assistant. We continued to offer preschool classes to two, three, four and five-year-olds with our full day Kindergarten program. Our Enrichment programs continue to be a success, adding additional learning opportunities for our students.

Our goal, at all ages, to provide children with a developmentally enriching experience in a safe, nurturing Christian environment is being reached every day. The parents are blessed with a safe, loving place to begin their child's education. The school continues to add enrichment through Music, special visitors and field trips. The school is blessed with a host of parent volunteers and hard-working staff who continue to be involved in the education of the children at St. Matthew's.

The school continues to reach out to the community in several ways.

- In January our Kindergarten class donated \$190.00 to the Chester County SPCA along with a trunk full of towels and blankets for the animals. This money was raised during our annual sale of home-made dog treats to our school families.
- February, we organized a diaper and food drive to benefit the Chester County Food Bank.
- During March we held our annual Winter Carnival. As a part of the event, the staff put together a raffle basket to benefit the Expand with Love Foundation. For each ticket placed in the raffle we donated \$1 to the charity for a total of \$203.00. We also coordinated with Cradles to Crayons and hosted a donation drop off day during the carnival.
- During the month of April, we held "Pennies for a Purpose", collecting small change to support the American Cancer Society. We donated \$107.21.
- "Socktober" was a great month when we collected socks for those in need.
- For Thanksgiving, the school oversaw the collection of hats, gloves, scarves and toiletries to accompany our congregants to Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Philadelphia.
- Finally, all donated clothing, toys and baby equipment through our bi-annual Consignment Sale is given to Cradles to Crayons

The school continues to reach out to the community through our Spring and Fall Children's Consignment Sale; generating a conduit for recycling gently used items, being a presence in the community, producing an opportunity to donate unsold items to great charities and generating income to support the school and church. Our Winter Carnival, designed to reach families of young children and provide a safe environment to have a fun day out during the cold weather months, continues to reach families from all over the areas

We are thankful for the blessing of St. Matthew's School and look forward to touching many more families in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Elkins
Director

FINANCE REPORT

2018 Review

St. Matthew's remains financially sound going into 2019 due to expense reductions, generous offerings, school income, and trust income. Regular contributions of \$276,135 was \$123,859 below the 2018 budget of \$399,994 and below the 2017 contributions of \$380,947. Total operating expenses of \$428,700 were \$69,877 below the budget and \$57,818 lower than 2017. The total operating surplus last year was \$61.

The Benevolence contribution of \$12,750 was \$12,800 below budget. St Matthew's ultimate goal is to tithe 10% of our offerings to the Synod.

The Finance Committee is responsible for monitoring the Woodland and Bertolet Trusts. The combined value of the trusts is \$706,870 and the overall asset allocation is 45% stocks, 49% fixed income and 6% cash. The Bertolet and Woodland Trust ended the year at \$245,575 and \$461,295, respectively, \$77,481 lower than last year's ending balances. The Woodland Trust is restricted to withdrawals from income and capital gains for edifice expenses. A distribution of \$9,974 was made from the Woodland Trust to pay property expenses. A distribution of \$11,500 was made from the Bertolet Trust to help pay 2018 operating expenses of the church.

Charitable stock donations of \$28,152 were received in 2018. The combined value of the Morgan Stanley investment accounts at the end of 2018 was \$24,690.

The primary checking account year end value was \$42,340, the year-end value of 2017 was \$33,337. The Congregation Cares Fund received \$4,295 in direct contributions and support from the church. The Fund made disbursements to beneficiaries of \$5,515 in 2018. The Fund had a cash balance of \$9,664 at the end of 2018.

At the end of the year, the Savings, Gifts, and Memorial account had a balance of \$63,259, the balance at the end of 2017 was \$100,682. No gifts were made to this account in 2018. A withdrawal of \$28,000 was made from this account in 2018 for 2017 operating expenses. A withdrawal of \$10,000 was made from this account in 2018 for 2018 operating expenses.

2019 Budget

Our 2019 budgeted operating income of \$382,340 is \$46,421 lower than operating income received in 2018. Our 2019 annual offering budget of \$285,000 is a 28.7% decrease from last year's offering budget. Distributions from the Woodland Trust, Bertolet Trust, Savings, Gifts & Memorials fund and charitable stock donations will offset lower offerings.

A concentrated effort will be made to receive charitable stock donations in 2019. Charitable stock donations will help St. Matthew's meet its cash flow budgetary goals.

Preschool income of \$60,815 is budgeted for 2019, which is \$16,185 lower than 2018 preschool income received. Preschool income received in 2018 of \$77,000 is \$29,000 higher than preschool income budgeted for 2018.

Budgeted expenses for 2019 are \$116,957 or 23.5% lower than budgeted expenses for 2018. Budgeted expenses for 2019 of \$381,620 are \$47,080 lower than actual 2018 expenses.

As we prepare for 2019, Council and the Finance Committee took a conservative approach both on the income and expense side. We plan to continually to monitor our financials against the budget on a regular basis.

Respectfully Submitted

Andrew Aramany, Finance Chair
Ed Mourar, Treasurer

	2017 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Proposed Budget
Income				
Offerings	\$ 380,947	\$ 399,994	\$ 276,135	\$ 285,000
Charitable Stock Donations	\$ 12,181	\$ 24,500	\$ 28,152	\$ 25,000
School	\$ 45,388	\$ 48,000	\$ 77,000	\$ 60,815
Woodland Trust - DNB Bank	\$ 12,361	\$ 14,765	\$ 9,974	\$ 11,525
Berterlot Trust - Vanguard	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	\$ -
Savings, Gifts, & Memorials Withdrawals	\$ 28,000	\$ -	\$ 26,000	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 490,377	\$ 498,759	\$ 428,761	\$ 382,340

Expenses				
Benevolence	\$ 25,550	\$ 25,550	\$ 12,750	\$ 25,550
Capital Improvements	\$ (2,580)	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Community Life	\$ 9,645	\$ 9,700	\$ 8,262	\$ 8,000
Congregation Cares Contribution	\$ 2,500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Education/Faith Formation	\$ 7,199	\$ 10,050	\$ 5,490	\$ 7,500
Mortgage	\$ 12,475	\$ 12,475	\$ 12,475	\$ 12,475
Office	\$ 30,959	\$ 29,750	\$ 31,563	\$ 25,575
Outreach Ministry Contribution	\$ 524	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Payroll	\$ 234,496	\$ 241,835	\$ 206,034	\$ 169,213
Property	\$ 56,892	\$ 44,000	\$ 43,535	\$ 44,000
Staff Benefits	\$ 69,143	\$ 71,217	\$ 58,991	\$ 35,557
Sterwardship	\$ 1,615	\$ 2,000	\$ 613	\$ 1,000
Utilities	\$ 21,928	\$ 25,000	\$ 29,595	\$ 25,750
Worship & Music	\$ 6,172	\$ 7,500	\$ 4,892	\$ 7,500
Youth Ministry Contribution	\$ 10,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000

Total Expenses	\$ 486,518	\$ 498,577	\$ 428,700	\$ 381,620
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Income - Expenses	\$ 3,859	\$ 182	\$ 61	\$ 720
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**St Matthews Lutheran Church
Net Worth Statement - 12/31/2018**

**St Matthews Lutheran Church
Net Worth Statement - 12/31/2017**

Assets	Amount
Investment Accounts	
Bertolet Trust - The Vanguard Group	\$ 245,575
Woodland Trust - DNB Wealth Management	\$ 461,295
Morgan Stanley - Stock Donation Account	\$ 24,690
Morgan Stanley - Operating Account	\$ 1,895
Checking and Savings	
DNB First	
Main Account	\$ 42,340
Savings, Gifts, Memorials	\$ 63,259
Congregation Cares	\$ 9,664
Outreach	\$ 3,034
Total Assets	\$ 853,398
Liabilities	
Mortgage	
DNB First Mortgage	\$ 123,097
Total Liabilities	\$ 123,097
Net Worth	\$ 730,301

Assets	Amount
Investment Accounts	
Bertolet Trust - The Vanguard Group	\$ 282,990
Woodland Trust - DNB Wealth Management	\$ 501,361
Morgan Stanley - Stock Donation Account	\$ 10,049
Morgan Stanley - Operating Account	\$ 15,950
Checking and Savings	
DNB First	
Main Account	\$ 33,337
Savings, Gifts, Memorials	\$ 100,682
Congregation Cares	\$ 10,968
Outreach	\$ 1,646
Total Assets	\$ 958,629
Liabilities	
Mortgage	
DNB First Mortgage	\$ 130,418
Total Liabilities	\$ 130,418
Net Worth	\$ 828,211

2018 STATISTICS**Adults and Children received - 19****Youth Confirmed - 6****Members transferred or moved from area - 19****Deaths - 4****Baptisms - 5**

Alexandria Lee Antos, Maeve Eva Czyzewski, Nora Jane Czyzewski,
Evelyn Mackenzie Danziger, Brynley Blake Koloseike

Crib size quilts are presented by the *Chatty Country Quilters*
to infants and children to age 3 the day of their baptism. Thank You!

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2018 – Following the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

*God calls St. Matthews congregation and community to:
be engaged in joyful service in God's world through faith in Jesus Christ*

Opening Prayer and Devotions

Council President Eric Ramsey welcomed the congregation to the annual meeting. Pastor Tina also welcomed the congregation and said an opening prayer.

Setting a Quorum

A quorum was established. (20 members needed, 44 in attendance.)

Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

The congregation was asked to review the meeting minutes from last year. No questions were asked and Eric asked the congregation for the approval of the minutes. Sandy Elkins made the motion to approve, Kristin Ditillo seconded the motion. The 2017 minutes were unanimously approved.

Questions on Committee Reports

There were no questions on the committee reports.

2017 Budget

Eric Ramsey introduced Ed Mourar and Drew Aramany and thanked them for their diligent work with the finances in 2017. Eric acknowledged and thanked Brian Delin and the Finance committee for their help as well.

Drew Aramany presented the Income side of the budget. As a congregation we are in better financial shape than last year due to an overall increase in giving. Drew mentioned that some stocks were also given to the church this year, and that giving stocks is a great way to help the church.

Ed Mourar presented the Expenses side of the 2018 budget. At last year's annual meeting council had announced the need to reduce the budgeted amount our church would be able to give to the Benevolence fund due to a 2016 shortfall in offerings. One of our goals in 2017 was to increase congregational giving enough to fully restore our Benevolence fund gift to the synod. We are thankful to have met this goal. The budget prediction for 2018 shows offerings increasing by 5% over 2017 actuals, and it has been estimated that gifts of stock will double.

Questions were taken from the floor. Don Price asked for the rationale behind the estimated 5% increase and doubling of stock gifts. Drew Aramany explained that the giving trend has been upward and we will continue to encourage congregational giving throughout the year to meet our goals. Stock gifts are estimated to double this year as this option is communicated effectively to the congregation and we tap into employer matching gifts.

Kristin Ditillo made a motion to approve the budget. Cesar Madarang seconded the motion. The budget was approved unanimously.

Nominations and Election of 2017 Council Members

Eric Ramsey thanked John Leuders for serving for 6 years on Council, and for all of the hard work he has done and continues to do as Leader of Technology.

With John's term ending and Melanie Franz having moved to Arizona, there were two open Council seats to fill. Eric Ramsey announced that the nominating committee had found two new candidates. He introduced Meghan Comegys and Jim Shrimp and said they had agreed to serve on Council. Mary Kwiatkowski made the motion to accept the new members of Council, and Birgit Hof-Werth seconded the motion. Meghan and Jim were unanimously approved to serve on Council, effective immediately.

Adjournment & Lord's Prayer

Eric Ramsey asked if there were any further questions from the congregation. There were no further questions. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer led by Eric Ramsey.