

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 31, 2021

Rev. Thaddeus Book - Pastor

Daniel Bower - Director of Music

Craig Miller – Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Paula Reese - Office Administrator

Kyle Dewees - Sexton

Sandy Elkins - St. Matthew's School Director

Phone: 610-458-5675
www.stmatthews-church.org

2020 Council

President – Jim Shrimp
 Vice President – Louise Rutledge
 Treasurer – Ed Mourar
 Secretary – Sue Giacomponello
 Andrew Aramany
 Meghan Comegys
 Don Hummerston
 Mary Kwiatkowski
 Desiree Lee
 Robert Unger

Ministry Team Leaders

Mission In – Sue Hummerston
 Property – James Davis
 Outreach – Kathy Meltzer

 Technology – John Lueders
 Finance – Andrew Aramany & Ed Mourar

St. Matthew's Mission and Vision 2021 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
- 2) Setting a Quorum
- 3) Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
- 4) Questions on Committee Reports
- 5) 2020 Financial Report and 2021 Budget
- 6) Nominations and Election of 2021 Council Members
- 7) Questions on Interim and Call Process
- 7) Adjournment & The Lord's Prayer

REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9

By the time you read this, I will have taken another call but since I was pastor at St. Matthew’s throughout 2020 it felt fitting that I would document this year from the pastor’s point of view.

There are very few universal truths anymore, but I am confident that none of us have experienced a year like 2020. On Sunday March 8th, we had our regular Sunday worship services. On March 11th we had our Wednesday evening Lenten activities, but as we got into the weekend it became clear that we would not be able to worship in person on Sunday, March 15th. Life changed so quickly, but we were hopeful it would be a temporary blip and we could worship in person in a few short weeks. I’m not sure anyone could have predicted that the March 8th worship service would be the last time we would worship together in person in the sanctuary in 2020.

In spite of everything changing so quickly, the staff and congregation responded quite well. Even though we only had 24 hours to prepare, we were able to move worship to a digital platform. On the first Sunday, we worshiped with an iPhone stacked on a few pew hymnals. Whoever was off camera moved the base of books towards the next person who would appear on camera. We broadcast in the church’s Facebook group through Facebook Live. Our music director led us in song, my four-year-old Lincoln joined me in the children’s sermon, our tech person made sure we were broadcasting, you shared your prayers in the comments. In short, it felt like worship. As we became more comfortable, the worship experience got better. We added more cameras, more musicians, a tech person, and beautiful flowers.

From the middle of March, St. Matthew’s stepped up in a number of ways. We had drive-by birthday parties for a number of members in the congregation, you became pen pals with members who were quarantined or in need of a note, you did a drive by baby shower for our youngest child who would be born right in the middle of this harried year. We had Sunday school, youth meetings, movie nights, Bible studies, council meetings and so many more gatherings on Zoom. We worshiped outside in person once a month when the weather allowed from June through October. We had multiple food drives for the local food bank and our gardeners continued to produce food for those in need. We wrestled with social justice, racism and other current events in the midst of year through online conversation and movie nights.

We ended the year with a couple of unforgettable Christmas Eve drive in services. We rented a tractor trailer, strung up Christmas lights and pop ups, ran electricity to the trailer, used phone cameras instead of candles. In typical 2020 fashion, we encountered a monsoon during worship but that didn’t stop over 90 cars joining us between the two services.

This is who St. Matthew’s has been since its beginning in 1833. A congregation that adapts in whatever ways are needed to be the community that God calls for in that moment. In 1878 that meant moving up the hill, in 2000 that meant turning the sanctuary around and adding a fellowship hall and preschool classrooms, in 2020 that meant worshipping online for 9 months and finding new and unique ways to be the Church together even when we can’t physically be together. I was proud to be your pastor these past six years and particularly so in 2020. When I think about the many ways we responded to the adversity of the year, I choke up.

Before I scatter, one last blessing to all of you. May God Bless you and Keep you, May God’s face shine on you and be gracious unto you, may God look upon you with favor and grant you peace.

Pastor Thadd

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The year 2020 was unprecedented. Whether you are 1 or 101 years old 2020 was full of challenge and uncertainty that examined the Faith of even the most devoted. With that said, God never presents a challenge that the faithful cannot handle.

At last year's Congregational meeting, in January 2020, we were looking forward to implementing a new vision for St. Matthews. There was a sense of tranquility. And then, COVID arrived.

Starting in mid-March, we suspended in-person worship, but we continued to gather. Our worship, music and audio/visual teams jumped into action and St. Matthews service was on Facebook live without missing a week. And, the quality of the virtual services has gotten better and better throughout the year. Also, with the use of Zoom and other technologies, and the dedication of our volunteer leadership, most of our ministries have continued to meet. Moreover, our Youth ministry has continued to safely meet and to perform good works throughout Chester County.

On behalf of Council, and the Congregation, thank you to all of our paid and volunteer staff that persevered throughout 2020.

And then, Pastor Thadd resigned to accept a call in Arizona. I think I speak for all of us when I say thank you to Thadd and Laura for their dedication and service to the Congregation over the last 6 years and we wish them all the best. But, the world keeps turning and hopefully by the time of our annual meeting St. Matthews will have an Interim Pastor and we will begin to process of calling a new full-time pastor.

With all of the turmoil and uncertainty, it is a testament to our Congregation that St. Matthews is on firm financial footing. Thank you to the Congregation for continuing to support St. Matthews' and its ministries throughout 2020. We know there are numerous charities and non-profits deserving of your financial assistance and we are grateful that you continue to support St. Matthews.

And finally, thank you to Louise Rutledge, Drew Aramany, Ed Mourar and Sue Giacomponello for their service on Council over the last 6 years. The time and talent you all brought to Council during this period was invaluable.

Yours in Christ,
Jim Shrimp

REPORT FROM DIRECTOR of MUSIC

Christmas Eve 2019 was a professional milestone, for me.

Having cycled a full year (& then some) as music director, the roll was finally becoming familiar. Relationships with bandmates and fellow staffers were solidifying. Pastor Thadd & I found a good work groove. We shared the excitement of baby boys on the way. In addition to our improving worship planning skills a friendship was blooming. My repertoire of Lutheran Hymns and Praise songs was becoming more inherent making room for creativity and growth. The band was getting tighter. I was learning how to be a choir director! 'New guy anxiety' was making way for excitement. Our music program was growing. I remember driving home after the marathon of Christmas Eve services, gushing with sweaty cheer and ready for more. "Let's DO this 2020!!!" And it got off to a great start. Choir was gaining momentum. Lent jam sessions were going well. Then it all changed.

Enter Pandemic. I'll never forget that sunny mid March afternoon standing outside by the cemetery with Thadd. He looked at me and said "this is one of those moments we'll always remember. A life changer like 9/11; Corona Virus..."

So, just like you, we had to pivot. Sunday worship gathering was soon to be a non-option. We had to act quick. Thadd informed we'd be transitioning to an online, streamed worship format which excited me for the possibilities but also scared me; more uncharted waters. The thought of leading worship w/out the Praise Band on whom I not only relied heavily but also really enjoyed working with was nothing short of depressing. Facing these changes alone felt daunting. Fortunately, Thadd (& all of you!) let me bring in piano support via Mike B and the technical support of sound & light specialist, Mike 'Sanco' Santarelli. We put our nose to the grind and on Sunday, March 29, by the seat of our pants, produced our first live stream worship service. It's been a weekly education ever since. Though I miss the praise band & our camaraderie I've enjoyed working with my masked, limited crew to enhance & improve each stream. Dare I say, it's even gotten pretty dang good!?

As part of the new online worship format I was gracefully permitted a 30-minute prelude where, with the support of Mike B and just recently, Doug & Kristin Ditillo, I get to play music leading up to the service. In addition to red hymnal classics & familiar praise music I've enjoyed exploring songs from my favorite genres (bluegrass, classic country, rock, etc.) to find meaning & connection to weekly worship themes. Having the extra space before the service to spread out creatively has been a true gift. It is here during these weekly preludes I have found refuge, strength & inspiration to face this year.

By summers end we felt comfortable enough in our new format to try some outdoor services which went well but were short lived thanks to a cold October & some less agreeable weather. Back inside to stream. Not a problem. We got this.

Not so fast. It was a cold October morning. Thadd & I doing business as usual, bundled up for our weekly worship planning breakfast outside at Nudy's Cafe. He seemed uncharacteristically serious, nervous even. Maybe it was the cold? "This can't be good" I thought. "I'm getting fired for playing an Eagles song at Church!! NOOO!!" Then he let me know he was going to Arizona to follow his next call. (Record scratch) another life changing moment right there over coffee & eggs. How would I do this without my Captain? Furthermore, Laura! She brought Thadd & I together. Her flute and red hymnal expertise had been such a huge support. I had lots of questions and, thankfully, 3 months with Thadd to ask all of them & more.

Christmas Eve 2020. Did I mention less agreeable weather earlier?? The Christmas Eve Drive-In Service(s) was a perfect exclamation point to the end of an unforgettable sentence called 2020. Wind? Rain? Did I mention wind? Mother Nature's dark sense of humor aside, this was no year to cancel Christmas. Heck if we'd let a little weather stand in our way. Nope. We showed up. YOU showed up. With horn honks & flashing lights, with ez up canopies, with voices, with hands, with masks, with a STAGE (James Davies!), with generosity. Thank you.

Thank you SO SO MUCH.

Because of St. Matthew's I was able to remain employed & sane in 2020. My growing family (Welcome, Harvey's baby brother, Levon Scott Bower!) as well as my role here, this past year especially, has blessed me w/ meaning and purpose. I am grateful to God, Miss Sandy, Pastor Thadd, Laura, The Praise Band, Paula and Craig for being such a great team. We miss the Books but we're holding steady and bracing for brighter, joyfully noisier days in 2021.

Daniel S. Bower
Music Director

YOUTH

God is good, all the time.

Those words are on the walls of the Youth Ministry offices at both St. Matthew's and St. Paul's. I didn't put them there, but they have been a necessary reminder to me over the past nine months.

When I stepped into the role of Youth and Family Ministry Director for St. Matthew's and St. Paul's, I was ready to hit the ground running. I had some ideas regarding what needed to be done, and there were already plans in place for summer mission trips, VBS, and other things upon which I had to focus. I had a good sense of what was coming.

Hah.

God is good, all the time.

It is an interesting experience, hitting the ground running and then almost immediately falling into a pothole the size and depth of Lake Ontario. Getting one's bearings is particularly challenging when nothing looks familiar, AND the landscape is continually shifting. That pretty much describes our world during the first eight weeks of my service. But then, I expect that nearly everyone reading this is nodding their heads in agreement, having some sense of what I'm talking about.

Nevertheless, I was relieved to discover that God had at least kept me on my feet when I landed so that I could move in some direction. Others had, too, and we began to work to figure out how we were being called to serve our youth and families in this bizarre new world. Developing relationships is key in any ministry, and is typically most effectively accomplished in person – something that was not possible early on in the pandemic. Fortunately, the youth and families at St. Matthew's were tremendously gracious in welcoming me and giving me a chance in times that challenged all the normal ways of doing even the most basic things.

God is good, all the time.

We created weekly online opportunities for both middle school and high school youth to gather as a faith community, including a high school study of Adam Hamilton's book *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*. Jennifer Williams from St. Matthew's and Bridget Lillis from St. Paul's launched a parents' support group, which helped address a short-term need. Several members from both congregations worked to organize recognition celebrations for our high school seniors, who experienced the sudden loss of the traditional, cherished events that mark a significant milestone in their lives.

As spring became summer and we were able to resume some in-person activities, we started having regular outdoor gatherings with both the Middle School and High School groups. The week-long mission trips, cancelled by COVID, were replaced with several one day events including harvesting crops at Springton Manor Farm for the Chester County Food Bank, helping prepare bulk mailings for Chester County Women's Services, and making Linus Blankets for other local social service agencies. Youth and families responded wonderfully to these opportunities to not only gather together in person (albeit in a different and more regimented way), but to serve others through the tasks that they accomplished. At the same time, I saw personal relationships developing and strengthening among the youth from both St. Matt's and St. Paul's.

God is good, all the time.

In fall, with the start of a new school year, we welcomed new participants into the youth groups. The relatively mild weather allowed us to continue to meet outdoors into November. We attempted to start a monthly youth workday with Good Works, which provides home repair services for those in need. While this effort has

encountered some bumps and hiccups, I'm hopeful that it will build more momentum and grow in the new year. After hearing some youth and young adults share some painful, personal stories and express a desire to see more things done around the topic of mental health, we launched an initiative to address suicide awareness and prevention in our congregations, and to provide training to those who work with young people in recognizing the signs of someone in crisis, and how to address those situations. This initiative is ongoing and will also continue into 2021.

2021 will prayerfully see things return to some semblance of familiar for youth and family ministry, at least hopefully for the second half of the year. As I mentioned above, the Suicide Awareness and Prevention Initiative will continue. Opportunities will still be provided for teens, tweens, and younger children to gather in community, in a manner that both feels safe and is safe. Servant events will continue to happen, whether we are able to return to week-long mission trips in summer or have to stay with single-day work sessions for a little while longer. Social justice events like the annual 30 Hour Famine will be held to raise awareness of issues like hunger, homelessness, and inequities that still exist in our world. Finally, planning will begin in earnest for the next ELCA National Youth Gathering, postponed until the summer of 2022. Even though we are in a season of pastoral transition, there is much to look forward to in 2021 for our youth and families, and our entire congregation at St. Matthew's!

God IS good, all the time. ALL the time, God is good.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the members of the Youth Support Team and thank them for all of the time, energy, and effort that they have put forth toward the youth ministry over the course of the past year – especially during the transition period before I started my work here in March. They have been instrumental in helping make happen so many of the things that I have listed above. So many, many thanks go to Brian Delin, Ted Sevick, and Chrissy Sullivan from St. Matthew's, and Brian Hillestad, Julie Sanders, Regis Wornson, and Izzy Wornson (youth member) from St. Paul's.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Miller

Director of Youth and Family Ministries

SAINT MATTHEW'S CEMETERY

Checking 1/1/2020	2196.95
Expenses	9360.00
Income	9563.88
Checking 12/31/2020	2400.83
Trust Investments	144,984.64
Total	147,385.47

Sandra E. Dewees

Secretary/Treasurer

PROPERTY REPORT

The following maintenance items were addressed on the property during 2020:

- Boiler repair
- Bathroom repairs
- On Demand water heater replacement
- Oil Burner repair
- Roof and Downspout repair
- Projector replacement for worship space

REPORT FROM ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL

St. Matthew's School has continued to act as an outreach of our church. During our eighteenth year, the program started strong with full enrollment! On March 16, 2020 we had to close our doors to in-person learning and switch to a virtual method due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We continued to support our students until the end of the school year the best we could.

September brought the start of a new school year and the pandemic continued. We were able to open and have in-person learning, but it looked a lot different. We were unable to host our two-year-old classes as well as Music and Enrichment programs. However, we were committed to make this school year a success and reach as many early learners as possible. We maxed class sizes to 60 to 70% of capacity and were able to put policies and procedures in place to keep our children safe, distanced and learning. We served 89 families and 101 children in preschool and Kindergarten. We employed 17 staff members as teachers, assistants, and substitutes.

Our goal is to provide children with a developmentally enriching experience in a safe, nurturing Christian environment is being reached every day. 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 Church.

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

- In January, our Kindergarten class donated \$180.00 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.
- October and November brought the annual collection of socks, hats, gloves, and scarves to accompany Thanksgiving meal deliveries at Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Philadelphia.

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

REPORT FROM OUTREACH MINISTRY

Despite the unusual year, the Outreach Ministry continued to serve our neighbors throughout 2020 in a variety of ways:

- American Red Cross blood drives
- Community garden donations for Chester County Food Bank (CCFB)
- Decorated boxes for food delivery to senior citizens via CCFB
- Multiple food drives for The Lord's Pantry and CCFB
- Collection of toiletries for senior residents at Manatawny Manor
- Monthly Meals for St. Mary's Homeless Shelter (excluding summer)
- Clean-up of St. Mary's gardens
- Thanksgiving for the hungry and homeless with Holy Communion Church in Philadelphia (provided turkeys, pies, toiletries, and warm clothing)
- Christmas gifts for children at Silver Springs Martin Luther School

As tragic events occurred throughout 2020 related to racial discrimination, the Outreach Ministry provided opportunities to better understand systemic social injustice in our country and culture:

- August sermon series based on the book by lawyer, Brian Stevenson, entitled A Just Mercy
- Series of discussions based on movies related to racial injustice:
 - Just Mercy – racism in the criminal justice system, especially those facing the death sentence in the South
 - 42 - Jackie Robinson and his experience as the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in 1947 for the Brooklyn Dodgers
 - Hidden Figures – discrimination faced by female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program

Thank you to our generous donors and volunteers who make these programs happen year after year, as well as embrace new ones. In 2021, we look forward to exploring other ways we might serve our community as we strive to profess the human value and interconnectedness of all members of our society.

If you have a suggestion for another way to serve as a Christian witness in our community, or if you are interested in getting involved in our ministry, please contact Kathy Meltzer at kmeltzer@comcast.net

The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Meltzer and committee members: Skip Craft, Mary Kwiatkowski (church council liaison), Bob McDevitt, and Louise Rutledge

FINANCE REPORT

2020 Review

St. Matthew's remains financially sound going into 2021 due to generous offerings, school income, and trust income. Regular contributions of \$301,785 was \$3,972 above the 2020 budget of \$297,813 and above the 2019 contributions of \$289,139. One time Payroll Protection Plan income of \$60,985 was received last year. Total operating expenses of \$397,507 was \$3,491 above the budget and \$11,121 higher than 2019. The total operating surplus last year was \$29.

The Benevolence contribution of \$30,179 was above the 2020 Benevolence budget of \$25,550. St Matthew's was able to meet our goal and tithed at least 10% of our offerings to the Synod. We will also be able to give \$10,500 to local ministries.

The Finance Committee is responsible for monitoring the Woodland and Bertolet Trusts. The combined value of the trusts is \$861,957 and the overall asset allocation is 50% stocks, 42% fixed income, 4% alternatives, and 4% cash. The Bertolet and Woodland Trusts ended the year at \$341,001 and \$520,956, respectively, \$62,580 higher than last year's ending balances. The Woodland Trust is restricted to withdrawals from income and capital gains for edifice expenses. A distribution of \$5,665 was made from the Woodland Trust to pay property expenses.

Charitable stock donations of \$13,101 were received in 2020, below our goal of \$25,000. Prior year stock donations were liquidated and used for church operations. The combined value of the Morgan Stanley investment accounts at the end of 2020 was \$5,574.

The primary checking account year end value was \$115,279, the year-end value of 2019 was \$82,795. The Congregation Cares Fund had a cash balance of \$9,026 and the Outreach Fund had a cash balance of \$8,413 at the end of 2020.

At the end of the year, the Savings, Gifts, and Memorial account had a balance of \$50,749, the balance at the end of 2019 was \$47,484.

2021 Budget

Our 2021 budgeted operating income of \$373,210 is \$24,326 lower than operating income received in 2020. Our 2021 annual offering budget of \$300,791 is a 1% increase from last year's offering budget. Distributions from the Woodland Trust, and charitable stock donations will offer additional income. We are planning an additional withdraw from Savings of \$28,000 that is the unused Payroll Protection Plan income from 2020.

A concentrated effort will be made to receive charitable stock donations in 2021. Charitable stock donations will help St. Matthew's meet its cash flow budgetary goals.

Preschool income of \$24,000 is budgeted for 2021, which is \$4,000 higher than 2020 preschool income received, but represents only the rent to the church. Preschool income received in 2020 of \$16,000 is \$45,500 lower than preschool income budgeted for 2020. Enrollment was much lower due to the pandemic.

Budgeted expenses for 2021 are \$21,354 or 5.4% lower than budgeted expenses for 2020. Budgeted expenses for 2021 of \$372,662 are \$24,845 lower than actual 2020 expenses.

In addition, we are planning to apply for a second Payroll Protection Plan Loan in 2021.

As we prepare for 2021, Council and the Finance Committee took a conservative approach both on the income and expense side due to the current turbulent situation. We plan to continually to monitor our financials against the budget on a regular basis and conduct regular financial audits.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Aramany, Finance Chair
Ed Mourar, Treasurer

	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed Budget
Income				
Offerings	\$ 289,139	\$ 297,813	\$ 301,785	\$ 300,791
Charitable Stock Donations	\$ 11,950	\$ 25,000	\$ 13,101	\$ 10,000
School	\$ 75,314	\$ 61,500	\$ 16,000	\$ 24,000
Woodland Trust - DNB Bank	\$ 10,121	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,665	\$ 10,419
Payroll Protection Program Loan Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,985	\$ -
Berterlot Trust - Vanguard	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Savings Account Withdrawals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,000
Total Income	\$ 386,524	\$ 394,313	\$ 397,536	\$ 373,210

Expenses				
Benevolence	\$ 28,914	\$ 25,550	\$ 30,179	\$ 10,000
Capital Improvements	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Community Life	\$ 6,452	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,000
Congregation Cares Contribution	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Education/Faith Formation	\$ 6,450	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,273	\$ 4,000
Local Area Ministry Support	\$ 4,500	\$ -	\$ 10,500	\$ -
Mortgage	\$ 12,475	\$ 12,475	\$ 12,475	\$ 12,475
Office	\$ 25,566	\$ 26,530	\$ 23,695	\$ 25,500
Outreach Ministry Contribution	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Payroll	\$ 177,672	\$ 179,518	\$ 189,141	\$ 184,634
Property	\$ 36,690	\$ 45,320	\$ 28,594	\$ 35,000
Staff Benefits	\$ 35,996	\$ 36,623	\$ 41,314	\$ 42,553
Utilities	\$ 25,083	\$ 25,750	\$ 24,586	\$ 25,750
Worship & Music	\$ 12,882	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000
Youth Ministry Contribution	\$ 7,205	\$ 7,205	\$ 7,205	\$ 7,250

Total Expenses	\$ 386,386	\$ 394,016	\$ 397,507	\$ 372,662
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Income - Expenses	\$ 138	\$ 297	\$ 29	\$ 548
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**St Matthews Lutheran Church
Net Worth Statement - 12/31/2019**

Assets	Amount
Investment Accounts	
Bertolet Trust - The Vanguard Group	\$ 298,714
Woodland Trust - DNB Wealth Management	\$ 500,663
Morgan Stanley - Stock Donation Account	\$ 8,335
Morgan Stanley - Operating Account	\$ 1,722
Checking and Savings	
DNB First	
Main Account	\$ 82,795
Savings, Gifts, Memorials	\$ 47,494
Congregation Cares	\$ 13,265
Outreach	\$ 3,366
Total Assets	\$ 957,990
Liabilities	
Mortgage	
DNB First Mortgage	\$ 116,126
Total Liabilities	\$ 116,126
Net Worth	\$ 841,864

**St Matthews Lutheran Church
Net Worth Statement - 12/31/2020**

Assets	Amount
Investment Accounts	
Bertolet Trust - The Vanguard Group	\$ 341,001
Woodland Trust - DNB Wealth Management	\$ 520,956
Morgan Stanley - Stock Donation Account	\$ 4,027
Morgan Stanley - Operating Account	\$ 1,547
Checking and Savings	
S & T Bank	
Main Account	\$ 115,279
Savings, Gifts, Memorials	\$ 50,749
Congregation Cares	\$ 9,026
Outreach	\$ 8,413
Total Assets	\$ 1,052,644
Liabilities	
Mortgage	
DNB First Mortgage	\$ 107,547
Total Liabilities	\$ 107,547
Net Worth	\$ 945,097

2020 STATISTICS**Adults and Children received – 7****Youth Confirmed – 10****Members transferred or moved from area - 4****Deaths - 3****Baptisms - 6**

Micaiah Okikiolu Dlusemilore Aspen Adebajo, Everett Allen Book, Harvey James Bower,
Levon Scott Bower, Lauren Mary Koloseike, Ella Renn Shebelsky

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 26, 2020 – Following the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
God calls St. Matthews congregation and community to: Worship. Learn. Serve.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Council President Jim Shrimp welcomed the congregation to the annual meeting. Pastor Thadd Book opened the meeting with a prayer.

Setting a Quorum

Jim Shrimp confirmed that a quorum was reached (At least 20 members required, 56 were in attendance), and the meeting was called to order.

Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

The congregation was asked to review the meeting minutes from the 2019 annual meeting. No questions were asked. Jim asked the congregation for the approval of the minutes. Patrick Miller made the motion to approve, Don Price seconded the motion. The 2019 minutes were unanimously approved by the congregation.

Questions on Committee Reports

There were no questions on the committee reports.

St. Matthew's Preschool Bylaws

The congregation was instructed to review the updated bylaws insert in the annual report. Sandy Elkins explained that the preschool bylaws were established when the preschool opened in 2003, and were in need of updates to reflect changes that have occurred through the years. Changes highlighted in yellow. Congregation reviewed the updates. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the updated preschool bylaws. All were in favor. Updated St. Matthew's Preschool Bylaws were adopted.

2020 Budget

Jim introduced Ed Mourar, Treasurer, and Drew Aramany, Finance Chair, to present the 2020 budget.

Drew and Ed reviewed the 2019 financials and reviewed the proposed 2020 budget. Drew thanked the congregation for increased offerings in 2019, and mentioned that stock donations could have been higher. The preschool contribution was also higher than expected, and Drew thanked Sandy Elkins for once again exceeding expectations. Expenses were in line with the budget. St. Matthew's was blessed to be able to contribute a full tithe again to the Benevolence Fund in 2019, after a difficult financial year in 2018.

Ed Mourar discussed the independent financial audit completed in 2019. He thanked Ed Meltzer and Heidi Knopf for their hard work in completing the audit. The audit revealed no anomalies, and some recommendations were made regarding best practices moving forward, for example, St. Matthew's will work with St. Paul's Lutheran Church to audit each other in 2020.

Ed Mourar reviewed the proposed 2020 budget. Offerings are anticipated to increase by 3%, and the property maintenance budget was increased for 2020 due to a number of property maintenance projects that are needed in 2020, such as interior painting.

Ed and Drew confirmed that the proposed 2020 budget was balanced, and reviewed the Net Worth Statement.

Questions were taken from the floor. Don Price asked for the approximate percentage of automatic giving vs. Sunday morning giving. Pastor Thadd answered that approximately a quarter of the congregational uses electronic giving.

Thuy Ledinh asked whether the congregation is growing. Thadd answered that 14 new members were received last year, 12 had moved or transferred, and 2 had passed away. He added that there are currently approximately 1000 members, about half of whom are active. The average weekly attendance in 2019 was up slightly, to 177 per week (from 175 in 2018). Thuy asked if there would be an upcoming membership initiative. Council will address the topic during the Council retreat and over the coming year.

Patrick Miller asked why the stock donations fell short of expectations in 2019, and why it was expected to increase in 2020. Drew explained that stock donations often occur in December, and many congregants were unaware how to donate last year. There is a plan to provide this information to the congregation to hopefully increase stock donations in 2020. If this does not happen, the backup plan would be to use savings to close the budget gap. Ed pointed out that the preschool budget contribution was conservative, and the actual likely contribution would also help to fill the gap.

Doug Ditillo asked whether St. Matthew's should prioritize the Benevolence giving ahead of savings. Ed replied that it is always the intent to contribute to the Benevolence Fund, and we were happy to be in the position to give the full contribution again late in 2019 after a difficult financial year in 2018 when it was not possible.

Patrick Miller asked if there would be a stewardship plan for 2020. Ed replied that this would be discussed during the Council retreat in February.

There were no further questions from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2020 budget. All were in favor. 2020 budget was approved.

Nominations and Election of 2020 Council Members

Jim Shrimp thanked Eric Ramsey, who served for six years (two terms) on Council and as a previous Council President, and thanked Jeanne Maugle for serving for two consecutive terms on council as well.

The ending of Eric and Jeanne's terms left two openings to be filled on Council. Jim announced that the nominating committee had asked Rob Unger and Mary Kwiatkowski to join Council and that they had both accepted their nominations. Jim asked for a motion to accept the new council members. A motion was made to accept, and was seconded. Rob and Mary were unanimously approved by the congregation to be our two new Council members.

Adjournment

Jim asked if there were any further questions from the congregation. There were no further questions. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. 2020 congregational meeting was adjourned.