

ST. MATTHEW OFFICERS 2026

President: Tom Parchert
1st Vice President: Alex Barrows
2nd Vice President: Kelly Stevens
Bookkeeper: Beth Dorr
Financial Secretary: Vicki Lude
Recording Secretary: Susan Witmer
Treasurer:

Property Committee: Norm Mandle (Chairman), Joel Chapman, Solomon Stroup

Call Committee: Nick Bull, Amy Hunt, Vicki Lude

Nominating Committee: Joyce Eberhart, Sharon Heinze

Financial Review Committee: Rhonda Krahl, Darcy Eberts, Judy Phillips

Mission & Ministry

Congregation Life/Outreach

Kayla Holdsworth, Summer Lindley, Aaron Peters, Rob Van Severen, Susan Witmer and Lynn Bickle

Youth & Education

Jennifer Crawford, Liz Funkhouser, Danielle Holdsworth, Angi Lindley, Krista Peters, and Heather Snyder

Lay Assistants

Jim Barrows	Jeff Martens
Ken Brown	Adam Schroeder
Nick Bull	Dave Schroeder
Bruce Hunt	Doug Teggatz
Gil Linenberger	Dennis Ziegler

St. Matthew Lutheran church
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Phone (309) 787-4295 Fax (309) 787-4312
Email: stmatthewmilan@gmail.com
Web: www.stmatthewmilan.org

The Rev. Kurt Larson Mr. Gregory Mueller, DCE
Mr. Joel Chapman, RN, Parish Nurse

January 17 & 18, 2026
Second Sunday after Epiphany



The Warrior King
Matthew 4

ST. MATTHEW NEWS

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS: Greetings in Christ!
Thank you for visiting with us today. We encourage you to continue to come back in the weeks to come! If there's anything we can do for you, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. If you would like to join the St. Matthew Family please contact Pastor Larson or the Church Office. Our church website is at www.stmatthewmilan.org and our phone number at the church is (309) 787-4295. Thanks for joining us for worship!

PASTOR IS AVAILABLE to bring you communion in your homes or in small groups at the church. Please call (309-787-4295) if you'd like to arrange a visit or wish to come to the church to receive.

If you need a large print bulletin or would like to use a hearing impaired device, please speak with an Usher or Lay Assistant.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE NOW ON AVAILABLE. PLEASE REMEMBER TO PICK YOURS UP AFTER SERVICE.
****ANYONE WANTING ENVELOPES FOR 2026, BUT DON'T SEE AN ENVELOPE BOX WITH YOUR NAME ON IT, SEE VICKI LUDE OR CONTACT THE OFFICE 309-787-4295**

PORTALS OF PRAYER

The new January-March Portals of Prayer is now available to pick up.



**SERMON SERIES
FOR JANUARY**

JAN. 3-4 **THE ONE TRUE KING**
MATTHEW 2

JAN. 10-11 **THE KING'S ANOINTING**
MATTHEW 3

JAN. 17-18 **THE WARRIOR KING**
MATTHEW 4

JAN. 24-25 **BUILDING THE KINGDOM**
MATTHEW 4

Benevolent Fund

The money given on Sunday mornings in the Adult Bible Class is put into a benevolent fund. This fund is used to help St. Matthew members in need of financial assistance. Any questions, please see Pastor Larson.

THANK YOU!!!

The Milan Christian Food Pantry thanks St. Matthew so much for your generous and continues support of our food pantry in 2025. Your kindness, prayers, donations, and volunteer efforts make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families in our community.

Because of your compassion and faith in action, we can provide food, hope, and encouragement for those who need it the most. St. Matthew gave \$2,272.00 of financial support and this support reminds everyone we serve that they are not alone and that they are deeply cared for.

We are truly grateful for your partnership and for the love you show through service. God bless you!

Rexanne & Al



Learn to
SIGN

Sign Language Class
Starts Tues. Jan. 20

- Begins Tues. Jan. 20
- 7:15 on Tuesday Nights
- St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Milan, IL
- Led by Pastor Tim Eckert – LCMS Pastor for the Deaf
- Free!

GIVING THROUGH E-CORP

St Matthew offers an automatic deduction for your offerings. That is set up through a program called E-Corp. You have a couple of options available. You may have that deducted from your checking or savings. You may also have it deducted once or twice per month. Those can be set up to come out on the 1st or 15th of the month, or both if electing twice per month.

Note: If it is deducted out of your checking, it will go through the general fund, whereas, if you elect savings, it actually goes to help pay down the mortgage. Please contact the church office for more details.

There will be an E-CORP table in the hallway until February 1st for any questions or signing up for E-CORP. E-CORP is an electronic deduction offering option. Vicki Lude will be at the table to answer any questions that you may have.

**THERE ARE A
STILL
WANT A DISH
ANYTHING LEFT AFTER FEB. 1ST WILL BE DISPOSED OF.**



**FEW DISHES THAT ARE
UNCLAIMED. SO IF YOU
FREE TO ALL NOW.**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

You can attend our weekly Bible study in two ways:

- ◆ Sunday mornings—8:45am in the Gathering Room
- ◆ We are recording the Sunday Adult Bible Study and you can watch it on Face book live , or go to the webpage stmatthewmilan.org. to get the link.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The Grief support Group will be meeting **February 3, 2026** at 10:30 a.m. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Larson.

THE MEN'S NETWORK

Our next Men's Bible Breakfast will be **February 14, 2026** at 8:00am. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Larson..

SATURDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a women's Bible study on **February 21, 2026**. We are watching The Chosen. We meet from 9-11am in the Fellowship Room. Childcare and snacks will be provided. Any questions or concerns, please contact Angi Lindley.

LCMS Foundation

We live in a "I can do it myself" culture. That has been cultivated by our access to technology. Yet the questions is, "Do I need help to create my Christian estate plan?" This month we consider that your estate plan represents the biggest collection of decisions with far more impact than others in life. Estate planning is more than a task such as filing your income taxes online. Your attorney, financial advisor, insurance representative and tax advisor all have a responsibility to help you plan well. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help make sure all the communication is working with all these people, also making sure that your goals are being respected.

Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@ifnd.org.

Flowers	Chapmans in Honor of Nancy Miller's Birthday Ken Brown in Remembrance of Jackie	
Lay Assistant	5:30 p.m. Ken Brown	10:00 a.m. Jeff Martens
Altar	Susan DeLoose, Vicki Lude, and Sue Witmer	

ATTENDANCE			
Last Weeks Attendance	5:30 p.m.	41	Outside
	10:00 a.m.	132	Outside
Bible Study	42	Sunday School	14

THIS WEEK THE LORD WILLING

Saturday, January 17	9:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study Worship
Sunday, January 18 The Second Sunday After Epiphany	8:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Bible Study Worship
Monday, January 19	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Tuesday, January 20	6:15 p.m.	Choir
Wednesday, January 21	5:30 p.m.	Confirmation
Thursday, January 22	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Friday, January 23	9:00 a.m.	Bulletin Assembly
Saturday, January 24	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday, January 25	8:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Bible Study Worship

MITE BOXES Give Christ-Centered Hope for Cancer Patients

Another new mission grant project selected at the LWML National Convention was **Phil's Friends** in Wheaton, IL. This organization touches cancer patients & families in profound ways. In the past 18 years, nearly 60,000 care packages and more than one million Cards of Hope were sent across the United States. Each cancer patient can't be seen in person, but they can be "visited" with the mercy, love, and compassion of Jesus Christ through free care packages and monthly Cards of Hope. It is during difficult times when people are most likely to ask searching questions and are open to the Gospel. Simple acts of kindness, such as receiving a care package or encouraging cards, become most meaningful and impactful.

The cost to support one cancer patient for a year is \$100. This total includes the care package, 12 Cards of Hope, and postage. Since Phil's Friends is 100% donor supported, this \$100,000 grant will help reach 1000 patients with Christ-centered hope and compassion.

Each care package is lovingly hand-decorated, and the contents are customized for the recipient. Care packages are filled with both practical and comfort items that a cancer patient can use during their treatments such as lip balm, a water bottle, lotion, knitted hat, socks, homemade blanket, journal, puzzle books, & stuffed animals for children. The most important thing included in every package is a Bible, the only true source of hope and comfort.

Testimonies are received every week from recipients telling how their care package and ongoing Cards of Hope strengthen, encourage, and uplift their spirits. Some say they began reading the Bible for the first time and came to faith in Jesus. *I was sick and you visited me (Matthew 25:36).*

Want to support this mission? Pick up a mite box at church and drop coins or bills inside, returning it to the church's offering plate. You may also designate a Mite Box donation with your regular envelope offering.

If you know of a cancer patient who could be encouraged with a Phil's Friends care package, visit the website of Philsfriends.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Plan on joining us for upcoming opportunities for food, fun, fellowship and service. Have a suggestion for a future activity, contact one of the following: Greg Mueller; Angie Lindley, Susan Witmer, Danielle Holdsworth, Heather Snyder, Jennifer Crawford, Summer Lindley, Mikayla Holdsworth, Rob Van Severen, Aaron & Krista Peters, Lynn Bickle or Liz Funkhouser

February 1, 2026 - Souper Bowl of Caring

DO YOU HAVE YOUR SOUP RECIPE READY YET?

Come and judge for yourself as to who has the best soup!!

Taste them all!! Also vote for the best table decorations.

Please bring your soup recipe to

share! Sign up in the

Hallway at the table.



**See you after Church service on the
1st in the gym ready to eat Soup!!**

February 15, 2026—Fellowship Sunday

Right after Service stay for some goodies revolving

around the Valentine theme!! See

you in the

Fellowship Room



February 18, 2026



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins



ST. MATTHEW AT PRAYER



NEW/UPDATED REQUESTS THIS WEEK

Nancy Allnut, Sister of Billie Terrill (End Stage Brain Tumor)
Cindi Terrell (Hospitalized)
Lee Tobin (Hospitalized)
Dorothy Strayer (Hospitalized in the Trauma Center, Rockford)
Dennis Tenney - (Hospitalized)
Nancy Williamson - Recovering from broken arm
Mary Donegan—recovering from a fall

Those Who Mourn

The family and friends of Greg Hipkind (friend of the Dodd family)
The family and friends of Pat Mueller
The family and friends of Tracy Jones (cousin of Sandy Stevens)

Those who have Cancer

Margaret Brodale
Judy Dunning, cousin of Carole Hartley
Ed Gardner, father of Jarrod Lindley
Michael Grouell, nephew of Al & Kerry Nordstrom (Lung Cancer)
Cassie Himebauch, friend of Hollyne Wagner & Family (Breast Cancer)
Debbie Kershaw, mother of Travis Kershaw (Bladder Cancer)
Sharon Knipe, Sister of Mary Newswander (Stage 4 Cancer)
Deanna Paulsen, sister in-law of Kelly & Sandy Stevens
Darla Phelps, friend of Kurt & Lisa Jagers (fighting cancer)
Christine Shanahan, Aunt to Chris & Jennifer McVay (Stage 4 Cancer)
Gavin Springsteen, friend of Hollyne Wagner (rare child cancer)
Kate Snyder, daughter-in-law of Deb Snyder

Hospice Care

Tracey Randolph, friend Angi Lindley

Those Recovering

Carole Appelquist (Recovering at home)
David Applequist (Recovering at home)
Dennis Bedford, father of Kim Van Severen
Ross Bergen
Jordan Bovee & Auroara, cousin Jennifer Crawford (car accident)
Traci Espinosa, niece Evanna Kragness (Bone Marrow)
Pat Hagloch, sister-in-law of Eileen Leonard (tumor in head)
Rebecca Heick, cousin of Lude Sisters (chest surgery)



PRAYERS CONTINUED



Those Recovering

Tom Krahl
 Monica Leonard, daughter-in-law of Eileen Leonard
 Barb Mueller (St Anthony's)
 Sandy Margis, Grandma of Shauna Stroup
 Stephen Meyers, Son of Marianne Meyers (Cycling injury)
 Mary Newswander
 Al Nordstrom
 Chloe Pearce, Niece of Pam Ziegler
 Patty Pearson
 Cheryl Poage, girlfriend of Paul Aguirre (Had surgery on 12/15)
 Teresa Rusch
 Randy Shipman, friend Angi Lindley (hospitalized in Iowa City)
 Kurt Voigts, father of Heather Snyder
 Terry Walner, (heart attack)
 Nick Watson, cousin of Vicki Lude, Susan De Loose, Cindi Leonard
 Jason Wehr, Son-In-Law of Ross Mandle (Mini Stroke)
 Kaye Wheeler, sister of Janice Leihsing
 Jeff Wood

CONTINUING REQUESTS

Patty Benson, Sister-in-law of Rexann Garmoe (Very Rare Lung Disease)
 Fred Flickinger, Father of Dave Flickinger (Recovering at Encompass)
 Wendy Grunwald, daughter of Janet Meeks
 Joe Rusch—Undergoing Tests
 Jill Tharp, Pray for God's will in her search for employment
 Rick Mathias, Neighbor of Bruce & Amy Hunt (waiting on Stem Cell Transplant)

SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES—THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Captain Zach Chapman (Deployed to Italy)
 Petty Officer 1st Class Kyle Mandle (Diego Garcia Indian Ocean Territory)
 Lieutenant Adam Witmer (Deployed to the Middle East)

Important: Please review the prayer list & let the office know if you have an update, or want them to be removed.

NURSERY NEWS:

We have Adults staffing the nurse during worship service. Please feel free to drop your kids off with the adult attendee. We are looking to freshen up the nurse. Looking for any suggestions that you might have. Any questions contact Greg Mueller (309-236-8826), Summer Lindley (309-756-7049) and Kayla Holdsworth (309-737-6455).

Building Healthy Families:

Life can be hard, and relationships can cause pain. When someone hurts you, you may find it difficult to trust again. Through all life's challenges, God never breaks His promise: "I will never leave you; I will never forsake you." (Hebrews 13) He does not abandon you in the pain by promises to stay with you—and puts people in place to be there, including pastors and counselors who are available to help with troubled relationships and the pain they leave behind. Remember, you're not alone and (no matter what your German genes or you American individualist pride tells you) it's okay to ask for help. God put us here to be good for one another.

Lutheran Family Service. www.LutheranFamilyService.org

Operation Christmas Child Update:

Christmas clearance shopping has yielded several items for our shoeboxes like: \$2.50 Barbies; \$.99 toddler tambourines; \$0.25 little kid backpacks, and more. If you would like to help cover the cost; you can put your donation in an offering envelope and mark it OCC. We are also in need of shoeboxes with internal dimensions of at least 12 inches by 7 inches up to 13 inches by 8 inches to be able to send some awesome corner dollhouses. Please put the shoeboxes on the shelf above any of the coat racks. Thanks so much—Diane Mueller