



November 2023

The Messenger

ST. Matthew's Episcopal Church
9349 E. 65th Street, Raytown, MO 64133

St. Matthew's Staff

The Rev. William Jeff Hurst
Priest-in-Charge

Sherry Minzey
Admin. Assistant

Patti McGill
Music Director

Officers

Judy Taylor
Senior Warden

Carl Turlin
Junior Warden

David Macey
Treasurer

Linda Gerding
Secretary

Service Times

Sunday Worship
Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:00 a.m.



Dear Church family,

As we end the end of October, I am thinking about stewardship and last Sunday's directive from Jesus. After being taunted by the religious leaders about whether one should pay taxes. Jesus replied, "Give to the Emperor

(state, fed) what is due them, Give to God what is God's!" We are all quite sensitive about taxes especially since Jackson County property taxes were just assessed excessively. But what about God giving God his due proportion? As many small churches who struggle we might wonder how much more we can be stretched? Many of us where numerous hats on differing ministry services. I am amazed at how much we do compared to larger churches I served in the past that did much less.

When Jesus looked at the coin with the Emperors face on it, he knew he was going to have to speak cautiously. Roman Emperor's wanted glory, power and subservience. So, we pay the taxes to support local and societal order, but we give to God so to glorify and serve God for the advance of his life-giving kingdom. A fellow colleague had a title of a sermon called, "Be God's coin." One Bible College president remarked at each year's orientation for a new semester. "We are here as a school to ask God to help Himself to young lives." Being God's coin is reflective of how God might spend Himself through the self-offering of our lives as we signify often as our time, treasure and talents. As God's coin we are bearing the image that God is recreating in us through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. As we are employed in the kingdom exchange as God's coins, we know that God will always seek to give lavishly and abundantly more to us and out to others than we could ever think or imagine!

Blessings to all,
Fr Jeff



I keep hearing myself say "How can it be November? It was just summer!" And our weather doesn't help, does it? Hot to cold in just a few hours. Well, that means there is much to do in the music world at St. Matthews, with the planning of the first Sunday of Advent coming in less than a month with the 3 following Advent Sundays quickly following. Then Christmas. Have you started your shopping yet?? HAHHAHAHA! Not me.

Music has been great at St. Matthew's. It's amazing to me that 5 singers can put out such beautiful singing. I'm often told by you, the congregation, that they sound like many more people are back there. It's because they all have strong, beautiful voices and the spirit of God is their director. I just accompany them and let them go! Special thanks to Zella Forsythe, Janet Anderson-Brown, Marci and Carl Turlin, Janet Carney (when she is able) and Judy Roberts, who is taking a break from the music work for awhile but provides her wonderful tenor voice and guitar playing.

We will miss one of our guest singers very badly. Jan Brown has sung with us for special services and we'll think of her often. I hope that her daughter Christie, Marci's sister, will also keep singing with us when she can. We've created friendships with both of them so it is hard to see Jan join the heavenly choir. Condolences to Marci and her sisters, Carl and Nicholas, and the rest of their family.

May your November be full of music. There is so much going on in the Kansas City area for us all to enjoy and as the holidays come near there will be more.

May blessed harmony be with you and yours.

Patti McGill/Music Director

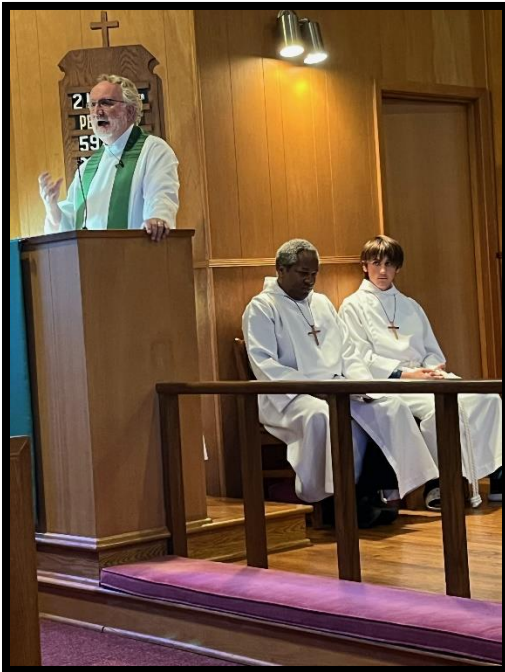




HELP ON THE ALTAR

Sunday Oct. 22nd there was a new face serving on the altar. At the urging of Jason Brooks, Nicolas Turlin agreed to try serving as an acolyte. With instructions from Jason, Nicolas did a great job. Perhaps this will be a new way Nicolas might share his time and talent with St. Matthew's in the future??

Linda Gerding-Reporting



CROP WALK 2023

ST. MATTHEW'S-"ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME"

Saturday Oct. 14, 2023 ~ 10:00am

The Crop Walk had a new location this year starting at Country Club Christian Church. This meant the walk route was new as well, but could still be as long (3.5mi) or as short (1.1mi) as anyone wanted to walk. It was a cool morning and mostly cloudy, but St. Matthew's Team showed up, like our t-shirts state "Here I am Lord".

The faithful and steadfast support of St. Matthew's Church and friends had them making donations right up to the day of the walk. A Matching Grant request to the Diocese has been submitted by Linda Gerding. St. Matthew's has been faithful for many years to represent our Parish in its efforts to donate to help in the fight against world hunger. For 3 years the Diocese has granted our Matching Grant request, and hopefully they will again this year.

St. Matthew's raised \$520.00 this year, the most it has raised in several years. **With the approval of the Matching Grant from the Diocese \$1,040.00 will be donated to Church World Service in behalf of St. Matthew's.** A BIG THANKS goes to the very appreciated generosity of the following:

*Jim & Brenda Laney
Mary & Charles Cease
Linda Gerding
Janie Matson
Janet Anderson
Dave & Linda Batson
Yael Abuhalkah & Beci Bosley*

*Darrel & Beth Cook
Fr. Jeff & Brenda Hurst
Patti McGill
Christina & Jason Brooks
Rick Robets
Barbara Wegener*

By supporting the Crop Walk, the opportunity to help "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" worldwide, has been met.

As always, we pray for those less fortunate, hungry, and in need: "Oh God, to those who have hunger, give bread. And to those who have bread, give hunger for justice." (Latin American prayer)

Blessings,

Linda Gerding
Crop Walk Chair-2023
Community Service & Outreach Commission

L-R Charles & Jasmine, Mary Cease, Linda Gerding,
Yael Abouhalkah, Beth Cook, and Beci Bosley.





ST. MATT'S TRUNK OR TREAT



St. Matthew's hosted their Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 28 from 1 to 3 PM. Due to a colder weather forecast and pending rain, the event was moved inside to the Fellowship Hall and became "table trunk or treat". Each person who signed up to decorate their car trunk, instead decorated a table. The trick or treaters went from table to table to receive their treats. It seemed to work as a good alternative and definitely was much warmer and dryer inside.

Thanks to Christina Brooks for getting the sign-up sheet put together, Tish Arroyo for bringing pumpkin bread as a snack to the volunteers, and to everyone who provided candy for the trick-or-treaters.

Linda Gerding-reporting



October Diocesan Council

St. Matthew's Raytown had the privilege of hosting the October Diocesan Council meeting. The meeting was attended by twenty members and the important business of the diocese discussed.

Many of our members were able to help with preparing for the meeting. The Daughters of the King had decorated for St. Matthew's Day and decided to leave up these decorations to honor our named Saint.

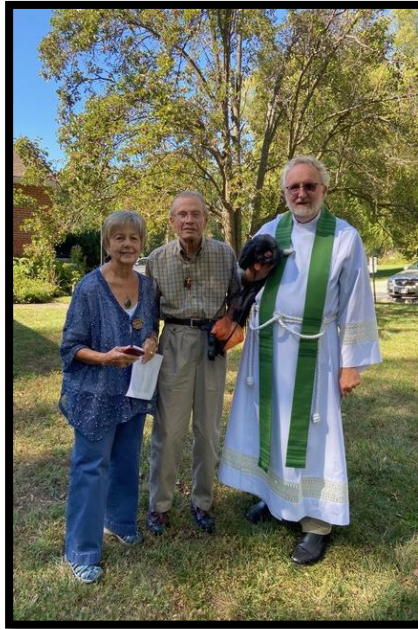
Food, Food, Food... Several of the Daughters provided desserts for the meeting. There were breakfast pastries, yogurt parfaits as well as grapes and cheese. The talk of the meeting was about the fall soups that were lovingly prepared. It was hard work that was accomplished by volunteers with happy hearts. Thank you to all who cleaned, donated, set-up, prepared and prayed for this to be a success.

Christina Brooks
Hospitality Committee



St. Matthew's Pet Blessing

Sunday, October 8th





FALL YARD CLEAN-UP

Saturday 10/22 and Monday 10/23 Sr. Warden Carl Turlin asked for volunteers to help with the Fall yard clean-up of the church property. Both mornings were beautiful weather for parishioners to get some fresh air, exercise, and spruce up the church grounds. Those helping out this time were: Carl Turlin, Jason Brooks, Linda Gerding, Brenda Laney, and Zella Forsythe.

Thanks to all for taking the time and using their energy to benefit the Parish.

Linda Gerding-reporting



The Daughters of the King Assembly



The Daughters of the King Assembly that was held at Trinity, Independence last Saturday. Zella and I attended. Nicely attended event. They had the archivist from the Truman Library to talk about Bess and Harry Truman. There was also a 2nd speaker from the Community Services League who spoke about ways that organizations and churches can work together to eradicate homelessness.

Christina Brooks



Praying uplifts my soul, nurturing and blessing me and those I hold in prayer. I open my heart to the love of God and behold the divine light of truth in everyone. I hold every being on the planet in love and light.

When challenges, discord, and tensions arise, I pray affirming harmony, clarity, and the right outcome, blessing all concerned with peace and wellness. I surrender all fears and worries that may have crept into my thinking. I release any judgments and attachments to outcome. I trust everything is working for the highest good.

I see all those in need of prayer at peace in God. I hold a vision of a world where everyone awakens to their divine nature, and together, we create heaven on earth.

To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God---will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith. 2 Thessalonians 1:11

Teresa

Linda Batson, Daughters of the King



Online Links

Online Giving Link:

<http://stmatthewsraytown.org/>

Facebook:

[St. Matthew's Episcopal Church | Facebook](#)

St. Matthew's Website:

[St. Matthew's Episcopal Church \(stmatthewsraytown.org\)](http://stmatthewsraytown.org)



DECEMBER MESSENGER & CALENDAR

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 28TH

