

The *Spirit* newsletter

Ascension Lutheran Church—Waterloo, Iowa

June 2023

About Your New Associate Pastor

Rev. Matthew Fenn grew up in Windsor, Ontario, directly south of Detroit. As a teenager, he joined the Jehovah's Witnesses and was deeply involved in that religion for many years. However, his Christian friends challenged him to take a closer look at the Bible and its central message concerning the person and work of Jesus Christ. In 2006, Matthew's life took a profound turn when he became a Christian after reading Philippians 3. His newfound faith led him to explore different Evangelical churches for a time. Still, his convictions about Christ and his free forgiveness of sinners made it clear that some aspects of Evangelical Christianity were lacking. Ultimately, Pastor Matthew found his spiritual home in the Lutheran Church, which he is convinced offers the most authentic expression of Biblical Christianity. He has learned through his experiences the importance of keeping the Scriptures central to our faith. By prioritizing Christ and his Word, all other aspects of life will fall into their proper place.

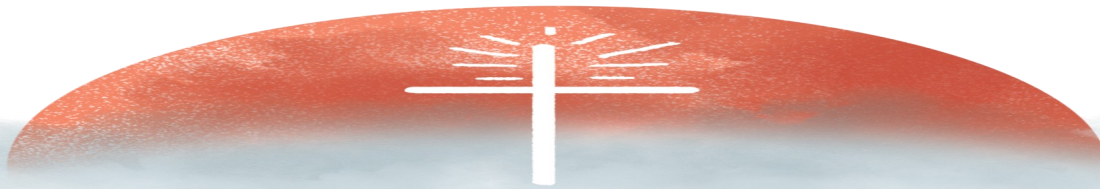


In 2012, First Lutheran Church in Windsor, Ontario, welcomed Matthew to the Lutheran Church. Not long after his reception, the pastor encouraged Matthew to consider pursuing Holy Ministry. He embraced this encouragement and enrolled at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary (CLTS) in St. Catharines, Ontario. Matthew's passion for Christ and his Gospel drew him to the ministry. He has since devoted his life to helping others appreciate the life-giving message of forgiveness. Matthew completed a vicarage in the dual parish at Dryden and Vermillion Bay in northwestern Ontario, two hours north of International Falls, MN, as part of his seminary training. Matthew holds a Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) from the University of London and a Diploma in Lutheran Theology with Certification for Ordination from CLTS.

On May 25th, 2019, Pastor Matthew received a call to serve as pastor of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Stratford, Ontario. He was ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry on Pentecost, 2019. Just eight months into his tenure, COVID-19 brought some of the strictest lockdowns in North America, challenging Pastor Matthew and his congregation in new ways. Despite these challenges, he served God's people at St. Peter's for four years. Recently, he accepted a call to serve as associate pastor at Ascension. Pastor Matthew is always eager to share the good news of Christ with others. He is happy to engage in conversations about the great things God has done for all humanity through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reverend Fenn and his wife have happily been married since 2015. Laurin was raised in a non-denominational Christian home in Portland, OR. She was homeschooled through high school. After high school, she attended Concordia University, Portland to study Nursing. During her last year at Concordia Portland, Laurin became sick with Crohn's disease and had to put her Nursing studies on hold. This allowed her to finish her religion minor. The study of theology and the Lutheran Confessions led her to become a Lutheran. Laurin graduated with honors and holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a double minor in Theology and Classical Languages.

While working two years as an RN in home health, a friend of Laurin's who had decided to attend CLTS introduced her to Matthew. They married after a long-distance relationship, and she decided to attend CLTS with Matthew. Laurin graduated from CLTS with a Master of Theology degree. Pastor Matthew and Laurin have been blessed by a gracious God with four energetic children, three boys and a girl, who bring them joy and keep them busy. Laurin finds fulfillment in her role as a stay-at-home mom, dedicating her time and energy to raising and teaching their children. Their shared commitment to family and faith is a cornerstone of their lives, and they are grateful for the many blessings that they have received as a family. When they have free time, the Fenns enjoy pursuing their shared interests. They are avid readers, including genres like fantasy and historical fiction, theology, and philosophy. The boys enjoy playing tabletop games with their daddy. The entire family enjoys spending time together outdoors and on hikes.

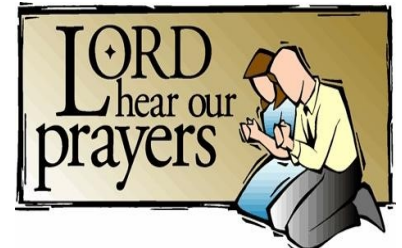


Condolences

Condolences to Don & Sandra Shippy, Troy Shippy and families on the death of Don & Sandra's son, Kirk, who died on May 20.



Lifting you in Prayer as you grieve.



Rose Beier

Ed Billings

Dave Coan

Jeff Colvin

Terry Deuel

Maria Drewes

Avis Gaede

Mike Galbraith

Ivy Gibbons

Ron Grimstad

Anabell Hakes

Lenora McDermott

Miles Mondt

Tom Stone

Dana Walker

Prayers & Praises

Thanks to Ron Syverud for bringing the church flowers and wonderful visit.

Thank you also to Terri Taylor for her tasty May-Day treats.

-Bill Drewes

A special thank you to friends and fellow members at Ascension for the many cards, telephone calls, well-wishes, and goodies I received on my 39th birthday, which I celebrated for the 51st time on April 16. It is great to be remembered at whatever age, but especially when one is 90 years young!

The greetings and treats from the Social Ministry Committee and the visit from Deb Anderson were also very much appreciated.

*-In Christ's love,
Pastor Lindberg*

The World Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who came out to support and meet Dan and Dawn Hall and their Albanian friends, Denis and Ela Shollari. Dan and Dawn shared about their experiences, while Denis and Ela taught our youth an Albanian song and shared their own experiences. One of the most touching stories was how both Denis and Ela received Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes when they were young, which showed them the love of Christ and helped lead them to a personal relationship with Him.

Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to the following AWANA students who received their Sparks Book 1 award.

Abby Badenhop

Katie Badenhop

Oliver Coan

Gwen Wild

These students worked hard by memorizing the books of the New Testament in order, inviting friends to AWANA, doing a missionary project, and reciting 33 verses. They also did readings and activities to help them understand the verses. Thank you to the parents for doing the working needed at home. Much of this work needs home support to complete! Congratulations on a job well done and continue to dive into God's Word!



~ Youth Group ~

Sunday, June 11

12 to 2:30

We will be celebrating our graduating seniors. All youth and their families are invited to attend. We are asking everybody to bring a covered dish to share. If you have any questions please contact Tiffany!

World Missions Committee *Welcome*

Dan & Dawn Hall

Dennis & Ela Shollari



We were blessed to have Dan and Dawn Hall visit us on Wednesday, April 26th with part of their Albanian team, Denis and Ela Shollari. They shared how God is using them in Diber Albania. The World Mission Committee met with them for lunch. Then we hosted supper for them followed by an inspirational talk by the Halls while Denis and Ela spent time with our AWANA kids! They hope to come back in the summer to visit on a Sunday.



Mark Your Calendar

PATRIOTIC BRUNCH

July 2ND

BETWEEN SERVICES

Presented by the
World Missions' Committee



Sunday Fellowship Treat Volunteer List

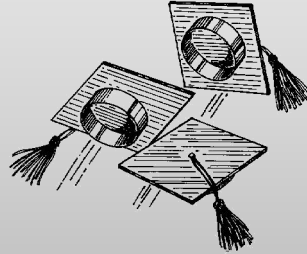
	April 30	May 7	May 14	May 21
Current Expenses	\$7,859.18	\$8,700.70	\$609.03	
Benevolence	\$1,504.55	\$1,136.00	\$1,242.38	
Building Fund	\$170.00	\$900.00	\$323.50	

June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
Sally McNally	Ron Syverud	Robyn Quamme	Lynn Grimstad
Lynne Jensen	Bev Kaiser	Candie Grimstad	

OUR GRADUATES



ASHTON HAAG



Ashton graduated from Waterloo West High School. He plans to enroll in an electrician apprenticeship program. He is the son of Ryan & Sara Haag.



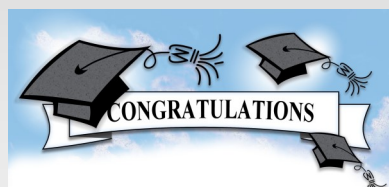
ADRIC SCHMITZ

Adric graduated from Valley Lutheran High School. He will be attending Concordia Nebraska in Seward, Nebraska and majoring in Exercise Science. Adric's goal is to coach basketball or cross country/track at the college level. He is the son of Eric Schmitz & Anne Meyer-Schmitz.



MARY STEWART

Mary graduated from Dike-New Hartford High School. She will be attending South Dakota State University for Early Childhood Education with a Special Education endorsement. She is the daughter of Nate & Angie Stewart.



Bailey Coan graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. She graduated Summa Cum Laude. Bailey has accepted a position at Caterpillar, Inc.

UPCOMING

Newsletter Changes

In the months ahead, you might notice a few changes to our monthly newsletter. Beginning in July, we'll be updating our newsletter format in an effort to highlight upcoming events and activities while we also continue to provide our congregation with meaningful articles and information.

As we make these changes, we're also working on expanding our options for delivering the newsletter to you.

Some of our goals in making these changes are to:

- *Continue to provide information to our members.
- *Use our church monies and resources wisely.
- *Give access in multiple forms.



your
To make this happen, we need help !

We encourage all members to consider receiving the newsletter in one of the following ways:

Email Newsletter List

1. Have the newsletter emailed to you (*full color version*).

~Scan the QR code to get signed up.

OR

~Call the office and let them know.

2. Bookmark our website (www.ascensionwaterloo.com)

~Hover over the ABOUT US tab

•Select Newsletters from drop down options

~Click on the newsletter you wish to read (*full color version*).

3. Pick up a hard copy in the narthexes.

