



# St. Matthew Spirit October 2008

Vol. 19, Issue 9

## The Alpha Program

The Christian faith is no longer holds dominance in our culture. For many reasons Christianity is misunderstood and for many there is not even a basic understanding of what it means to be a Christian. The Alpha program is for those who are interested in learning about the Christian message and ask questions about it. The Alpha program is an opportunity for both seekers and believers to ask questions and hear a response that speaks to people who live in the world we live in today. Think about joining us in January of 2009. We will meet weekly for 14 weeks. Sessions include a light dinner and will last about 2 and a half hours each session. Keep an eye out for more information. If you have questions as Betty Ristau, Diane Fletcher or Pastor John.

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## Flood Buckets for Hurricane Ike Victims

Hurricane Ike hit Galveston Texas on September 13th with a storm surge as high as 20 feet along the coastal border. Torrential rains flooded communities and the winds became just as damaging! Flood Buckets are being assembled by the Disaster Relief Committee. The effects of a hurricane linger for many years and the work to rebuild is stressful! Please consider helping our fellow hurricane victims with some relief. We are collecting 5 gallon buckets w/ re-sealable lids, bleach (1 quart size), scouring pads, sponges, scrub brushes, handi-wipes towels, liquid laundry detergent (25oz. size), household cleaners (12-16oz. bottle), disinfectant dish soap (16-28oz. bottle), clothes pins, clothes lines (50 or 100 feet) dust masks, latex gloves, work gloves, 24-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon size), insect repellent spray (6-14oz. size), air freshener (8-9oz. size). The value of each bucket is approximately \$55. If you would like to assemble a bucket for donation and need the exact content quantities, please call the office. Thank you for your continued support of our disaster relief efforts!

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## Battles on Many Fronts by Pastor John

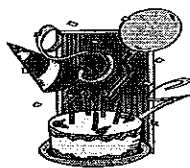
Last month commemorated the 7th anniversary of the terrorists attacks on the twin towers in New York City and the beginning of changes in our understanding of life that will last until the end of the age. We all paused to remember those 3000 innocent victims who lost their lives and honor those who gave their lives. We live now every day with an understanding that there are those who hate us enough to destroy us for who we are with out warning at any time. We live with the keen awareness that the battle field is undefined and no longer far from home. But it doesn't stop there. Along with the unknown terrorists who hate America are those who hate religion, specifically Christianity and blame the apocalyptic realities of that day on those who believe in God. The Freedom From Religion Foundation in Madison Wisconsin spent hundreds of thousands of dollars with an add in the New York Times that blamed religion for the horrors of 9/11. Along with a picture of the twin towers pre-9-11 was a statement that said: "The history of Western civilization shows that most social and moral progress has been brought about by persons FREE FROM RELIGION." Some how I don't think the untold millions of Hitler's, Stalin's, and Mao's and other 20th century despot victims would agree. This last century has produced more horror from Godless secular regimes that all the religious conflicts in history combined. The truth is that it is out of a Christian worldview that life is described as sacred and holy and that freedom is a gift of God which strives to protect the fundamental rights of all humans. Christians were behind the battle for slavery, the driving force behind modern science, efforts to fight AIDS, sexual trafficking, genocide. It is no coincidence that the concepts of freedom flourished in the Christian west not other places in the world. As followers of Christ we are meant to be the salt of the earth. That means standing up for what Christ came to proclaim and the principles that scripture promote even under attack from people who despise us. And that battle comes from many fronts.

Yet we do not despair, hope and salvation comes from Christ alone and he has been established in the heart of the believer forever. "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" Romans 8. Christ died so that we might be free. That is not the message of a religion but the Word of God. The apostle Paul says in Cor. 1:18, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." Being a disciple of Christ is not for those who wish to feel good all the time. It is for those who understand that there are battles going on and that we are called to engage. Trust in Christ and let him lead the way. Stand up in love to those who speak against Christ. You won't need any other weapon than the Word of God and the power of his Spirit.



## October Birthdays

- 1 Nicole Biscotti  
Autumn Cale  
Matt Stansburge
- 2 Phil Muller
- 3 Cindy Martin
- 4 Diane Fletcher  
Karl Kidd, Jr.
- 5 Andrea Ewing  
Dana Miconi
- 6 Jeffrey Euler
- 7 Kim Lupton  
Ed Weihs
- 10 John Miconi
- 11 Corinne Bowers
- 12 Ed Budzyski III  
Amanda Hoffner  
Dylan Logue
- 13 Amanda Bialozynski  
Mark McLean  
George Robertson  
Melissa Zielinski
- 15 Tim Dudeck  
Edith Wheeler
- 18 Sarahann Borreson  
Emilie Cargile  
Carole Warnecka
- 19 Dawn Kulczycki
- 20 Angela Mason
- 21 Marjorie Bowers  
Katie Gibbs  
Donald Schmelzer
- 22 Heather Holder
- 23 James Carr, III  
Sarah Grumbine  
Robert Horn, III  
Rebecca Weinriech
- 24 Betty Books  
Ann Janowich  
Pam Keller  
Sara Kellogg  
Ashley Miller  
Michael Winkler
- 25 Sandra Bochenek  
Erin Winkler
- 26 Bill Dukeman
- 28 Jeanne Nye
- 29 George Diepold
- 30 Keith Coppell  
Donna Read
- 31 Nancy Cox  
Jack Wheeler



## Happy Re-Birthdays

The following are celebrating the anniversary of their baptism in October: Amanda, Brandon & Brittney Bitters, Darlene Brandt, Mea Cellitto, Lillian Cichocki, Matthew Cook, Garrett Coppell, Colin Crum, Ronn & Tara Fletcher, Marcia Galloway, Chloe Garnish, Cameron Glenn, Chase Glenn, Martha Griggs, Tyler Han-incheck, Ellen Hauer, Tina Hauer, Amanda Jones, Kelsey Krach, Dawn Kulczycki, Jake Leary, Will Leimbach, Jr., Madisyn Lunner, Madelyn Mastin, Tyler McClellan, Tessa McLean, Jordan Meany, Stacia Miller, Felicia Napolillo, Charlotte Schoeberlein, Kristen Schuele, Helen Seaby, Christen Shumar, Matthew Stansburge, Anthony Svezzese III, Bill Teller, Sr., Jacob Wenger & Shannon Wilcox.

### October Schedules

#### Altar Guild

Millie Faircloth & Janet Donohue

#### Money Counters

Jim & Debbie Anders

#### Nursery

- 5 Katie Gibbs & Joy Mayne
- 12 Kim Holder & Amy Rey
- 19 Donna & Kelsey Krach
- 26 Tina & Ellen Hauer

#### Ushers

##### Early Service

- 5 Charles Brundick, Randy Cargile & Boyd Crouse
- 12 Jim Books & Ed Weihs
- 19 George Diepold & Phil Muller
- 26 Charles Brundick, Randy Cargile & Boyd Crouse

##### Late Service: Open

#### Worship Assistants & Acolytes

##### Early

- 5 Steve Janowich  
Shannon Cargile
- 12 Boyd Crouse  
Sarah Grumbine
- 19 Lynn Stevens  
John Myers
- 26 Mike Gosnell  
Becky Kavanaugh

##### Late

- Tina Hauer  
Sarahann Borreson
- Pat Byron  
Mike Marsh
- Sandy Stromberger  
Michael Napolillo
- Cheryl Vourvoulas  
Keith Alexander

# Pew News

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**Newsletter Deadline is October 17, 2008**, please be sure to have all information in before this date to ensure placement into the **November Newsletter**.  
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**Our Baptism for Life Class**, that is required before a baptism, is held here with Pastor John on the first Wednesday of each month. October's class will be held on October 1st @ 7PM. Our **Baptism Sunday** is the Fourth Sunday of the month. October's Sunday for Baptism is October 26th at either service. If you are interested, please call the office at 410-335-4210.  
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## **Lutheran Magazine**

Reminder! If you wish to subscribe or continue a subscription to the Lutheran Magazine, there is cost to you of \$15.00. Please place your \$15.00 in a Lutheran Magazine envelope found in the Narthex. Be sure to put your name and envelope number on the Lutheran Magazine envelope and place it in the offering plate by October 26th .  
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## **October Council Meeting**

October Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14th at 7PM. All are welcome!  
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## **Attention Nursery Attendants!**

Amy Rey has taken over scheduling attendants for the Nursery during our 11AM service. If you are a Nursery Attendant and have any questions or concerns, please contact Amy Rey at 410-335-1530. If you need a copy of the schedule, please contact the office. Thank you!  
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## **2009 National Youth Gathering**

Calling all youth...

If you are entering 9th grade this school year, are in high school grades 9th thru 12th, or are graduating 12th grade in 2009, you are eligible for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July of 2009. Registration and deposit of \$125 is required on October 5th. If you are would like additional information or would like to register, please call Katie Gibbs at 410-335-6887, or Vickie Borreson at 410-335-1870.

## **Attention: Post Confirmands**

St. Matthew's and the Parish Education Department have an exciting group meeting on Sunday mornings for "Table Talk" directed to post confirmation students that wish to extend their knowledge of God! Come join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45AM in the Pastor's office to share thoughts on school, family, friends, dating, and of course, GOD!

Come and join us for this exciting venture into the world of post confirmation with Katie Gibbs. This class is not one of work, but a gathering of your peers to talk about the issues that effect and impact your life, and how to include God! God desires a relationship with you, and wants to be in YOUR life! This is an opportunity to know God better, along with developing relationships with your fellow Christian peers. You have a long journey ahead of you. We care about your journey, and it is our desire to offer you support – and the Connection!

Once again, come join us on Sundays at 9:45AM. Give us your input! We are interested!

Yours in Faith!

Katie Gibbs, "Table Talk" Leader  
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## **Meals on Wheels Partners with St. Matthew**

Did you know that St. Matthew partners with Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, Inc.? We serve as a drop off center for volunteers to deliver prepared food. Meals on Wheels provides daily delivery of food to help folks remain in their own homes preventing premature institutionalization and protecting clients from food insecurity and hunger, as well as further helping our clients to maintain their independence in their communities. If you are interested in volunteering call Jane Pekosz at 443-573-0930.  
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## **Christmas Concert at St. Matthew December 7th @ 2PM**

Back by popular demand, Mark Hurley, our organist, will reprise last year's casual concert of Christmas favorites on our beloved Rodgers organ. This combination will bring back memories of the sounds of the "Mighty Wurlitzer" through the Rodger's digital wizardry. Our new Roland digital piano will also be a part of the program. Join us while we get in the "holiday mood". Refreshments and fellowship will follow in the Church's social hall.

## September Baptisms

George Xavier Svezese was baptized on September 28, 2008.

## September Weddings

Kimberly Kulczycki and James Anders were united in Holy Matrimony on September 27, 2008.

Congratulations and Blessings to all!



## September Memorials

In Loving Memory :

*"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord; "He who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."*

**No Memorials were given in September.**

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## The New St Matthew Web Page

Our new web site is:

[www.stmatthewbowleysquarters.org](http://www.stmatthewbowleysquarters.org)

We are in the final stages of work and we were anticipating its full operation by the end of September, but there is still some work to be done. Please watch for its release in October! It will be a functional web site with updates to schedules and announcements along with the newsletter. Unless you have been a part of the construction of a web page, most of us do not know that a great deal of work goes into the creation, development, and maintenance of such a thing. Pray that this outreach is effective in not only sharing the ministry of St. Matthew Bowleys Quarters, but also the good news of salvation that comes from Jesus Christ. A very warm and tremendous thank you to our organist, Mark Hurley, who has donated countless hours into our current Web page.

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**Mary and Martha Circle** is sponsoring a study on Pontius Pilate using the novel by Dr. Paul Maier. The study is held on Thursday evenings at 7:30PM. If you own the book, we have a study guide available, and if you would like to purchase the book, we have copies available for \$12 each. For more information, please contact Vicki Borreson or JoAnn Gibbs.

## Graduating Confirmands Confirm Faith

On October 26<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 AM Service, this year's graduating confirmands, will be confirming their faith. What this means is that the young adults will confirm in public the gift that was given to them when they were baptized. They will be giving a testimony to what God has done for them.

As a child, their parents brought them to the altar and acknowledged the gift of salvation that God gives to all who come to Him, even little babies. In Baptism, they were sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Now as an adult, they will acknowledge the gift of salvation. Their parents will no longer do it for them. We pray that everyone can be encouraged by them as they give testimony to the faith in which they were baptized.

Let these new members be a testimony to the never ending love of God which has sustained his people throughout the generations. And may you in turn do the same for others.

Congratulations to Zach Coppel, Lucas Cargile, Zach Miller, Beverly Krach, Hunter Horn, Megan Long, Lauryn Maggio, Katelyn McFaul, and Christen Shumar!

**Confirmation students who are graduating will be required to meet with Pastor John and the Confirmation teachers on Sunday, October 5th after late service in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served.**

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**Adult Bible Study** on Sunday mornings will be studying the **Purpose Driven Life** series in a table discussion forum. The group will review the DVD lesson and each one of the purposes of the six weeks. Whether you have done the Purpose Driven Life series before or are new to the readings, this Bible study is for you! Please come join Betty Ristau on Sunday mornings at 9:45AM in the Adult Bible Study room.

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## Women's Retreat is fast approaching!

It is scheduled for November 14-16 in Lancaster, PA @ Fulton's Steamboat Inn. If you are planning to attend the retreat, please contact Pam Keller as soon as possible. Pam's day # is 410-342-7676, and evening # is 410-335-7226.

## **Sowing for the Harvest Campaign**

The Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA is seeking financial support through the **Sowing for the Harvest Campaign** to raise money for the Mar-Lu- Ridge Camp and Retreat Center, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and the Delaware-Maryland Synod's mission outreach program. Each of these ministries is interconnected to serve as our Lutheran Church's outreach from within and outside the congregation.

Marl-Lu-Ridge serves not only as a camp for young people to attend during the summer months but an avenue to train leaders within the church. A large number of seminarians were inspired through summer camp experiences as well as leaders that serve various other ministries in the church.

The Lutheran "Theological Seminary at Gettysburg serves the church by developing pastors to serve congregations within the ELCA. The rich history and tradition of scholastic Theological education has always played an important role in the flavor the Lutheran Church brings to the rest of the body of Christ. The cost of seminary education often exceeds the resources of those who apply. The Sowing for the Harvest Campaign addresses the needs of our seminary students.

The Delaware-Maryland mission fund serves to help new congregations grow. St. Matthew, with the help of such funds and support, was started over 45 years ago. Without them St. Matthew could not have had its beginnings.

More information will be forthcoming about this Campaign. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Synods endeavors.

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### **Augsburg Lutheran Village Brunch**

Augsburg Lutheran Village is holding a Brunch in the Dining Room Saturday, October 4th, 2008 at 10:30AM.

Learn first-hand about retirement living at Augsburg Village. Visit with residents and meet the staff, ask questions and get answers about ALV. Augsburg Lutheran Village is an accredited continuing care retirement community at 6825 Camfield Road, Baltimore MD 21207. RSVP to Peggy Hemmeter at 410-486-4573 [phemmeter@augzburg.org](mailto:phemmeter@augzburg.org)

### **St. Dysmas Sunday October 26th**

St. Dysmas is our prison ministry. As one of many churches within the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA, it is wholly dependent upon the gifts of other churches because their members have very little income to tithe for the operation of the congregation. At this time their reserves are less than one month's expense. Their positive impact on recidivism, on depression, and on the darkness of the prison environment is caused by the presence of Christ in worship, bible study and pastoral counseling. They have added a Recovery in Jesus Christ class for addicted women in Jessup (MCIW) and they are starting one for the men in October at the Training Center in Hagerstown (MCTC). We could all miss this ministry if it were forced to cease operations. Please help with a contribution on Sunday October 26th. May the Lord bless us as a congregation with this worthy cause.

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### **ECUADOR MISSION TRIP OF 2008**

**We are not done!** Our work in Ecuador has only begun! The project at Santos Pamba and continual support to Pan de Vida are alive and well. Please consider a monetary donation to the Mission Fund throughout the year, or designate a memorial in a loved ones name on behalf of the Mission Fund. We will hold a Hot Dog and Bake Sale on March 7, 2009 from 9AM to 3PM at the Carroll Island Wal-Mart. Donations of baked goods will be needed. We are also looking to hold one before Thanksgiving at another location. Thank you to everyone who attended our "Pot Luck" Cookout and your continued support of our Missions. We will be holding other events to support our fellow Christians in Ecuador. All donations are tax deductible.

An update on our Christians friends abroad:

While we were in Ecuador, Pan de Vida was in desperate need of a very large double basin stainless steel sinks to wash these gigantic pots that they cook in on a regular basis. Through your gracious donations, we have been able to send them the money to purchase and install the sinks. Santos Pamba is operating the school without windows on the second floor. The cost of the windows is \$3000.

We are blessed to be so fortunate, and God calls us to all nations! Thank you for your continued support of our Mission Fund!

## Ecuador Mission Trip of 2008

### Sponsor a Child

Give the greatest gift to a child – an education! There are 30 children waiting to receive sponsorship to attend the Santos Pamba School in the fall. Sponsorship for a child is \$125 for the school year. This program is thru RCE International and was introduced to us thru Kim Hughes, another missionary we met while we were at Santos Pamba. She has a blog page that outlines her work and highlights Santos Pamba. Please visit her site at [www.kimecuador.blogspot.com](http://www.kimecuador.blogspot.com). Compassion is scheduled to start a sponsorship program with Santos Pamba in late October but will be too late for these children to start in September. So while we wait for Compassion, we can still give the gift of an education to the children of the community of Santos Pamba. The sponsorship form is printed in this bulletin and is available in the Narthex. Please indicate on the form if you prefer a boy or a girl.

### HELP SUPPORT THE SANTOS PAMBA SCHOOL IN ECUADOR

Santos Pamba is an impoverished village on the outskirts of Quito, Ecuador. The Santos Pamba Alliance Church has opened the first Christian school in this village, named Monte de los Olivos, in hopes of reaching this next generation for Christ. There are currently 50 children enrolled, with three teachers. Preschool and kindergarten will be offered. This is their first opportunity to be in a safe, loving, and cared for environment, where they are allowed to be children without worries. Families sacrifice to pay the \$10 per month tuition, and are in need of help.

#### How can YOU help?

Sponsor a child's education: \$125 for the whole year  
You will receive a picture with your child's name.

Please make checks payable to: RCE International

#### Mail to:

RCE International  
P.O. Box 4528  
Wheaton, IL 60189

On the memo line please write: Acct #3130 Santos Pamba Preschool Project

Resourcing Christian Education International is a non-profit organization and your gifts are tax-deductible. You will receive a receipt from RCE.

If you have any questions, please contact: Kim Hughes at [kimberlymayhughes@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberlymayhughes@hotmail.com)

For updated school info visit: [www.kimecuador.blogspot.com](http://www.kimecuador.blogspot.com)

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After prayerful consideration, I want to:

Sponsor a child's education and receive your child's photo:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$125 for the whole year:

\_\_\_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify, if you want to choose the child's gender: \_\_\_\_\_ male \_\_\_\_\_ female

Return this form to:

Kim Hughes, 6902 79<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

MAY YOU BE BLESSED FOR YOUR LOVE TO THESE CHILDREN!