

## Summer 2022 Update Newsletter, May 25, 2022

Hello everyone,

As the seasons change it serves as a good reminder that it's time to let all of you know about what's happening at St. Matthew's!

- This year we are pleased to finally host our traditional **outdoor worship service and picnic**. As part of our shared ministry with First Lutheran, we welcome everyone from both congregations to join us on **Sunday, June 12 at 11:00 a.m.** to take time to relax and enjoy our natural surroundings as we worship together. All food and drinks will be provided, however we do ask everyone to bring a lawn chair. In the event of rain, the worship service will be moved inside.
- The **devotional booklets** for July-September 2022 have arrived. Copies are available in the church sanctuary, or in the hallway just outside the church office. There are also some copies in the church mailbox for anyone to pick-up. Please let me know if you require assistance in receiving a copy of Eternity for Today, or the enlarged print Christ in Our Home.
- **Pastor Bart and Sharon** are planning some well-deserved **vacation time**. For any pastoral emergencies during that time please contact our chairperson, Jenn Rusk. We are planning for **Service of the Word** on

both **Sunday, June 19, 9:30 a.m. (hosted by First Lutheran; 688 Elm St., Port Colborne)**, and **Sunday, June 26, 11:00 a.m. (hosted by St. Matthew's)**. Plans for August are still to be determined.

Finally, some news from Pastor Bart:

- **Raising Funds for School Lunches:** Sharon and I have discovered over the years that loose change is found on the ground as we're walking. We've saved up and then would give to a food sharing program (often the local foodbank).

Here's my idea (which could be adapted/altered....)

We all could save up loose change we find beginning now and wrapping up Labour Day Weekend. We'd count up how much we all collected and then convert the coin to a cheque or cash and present it to agencies that provide school lunches for kids (In Port Colborne it's Port Cares). We could decide to make this a combined project for both congregations, or each congregation could gather "pennies from Heaven" for their neighbourhood and hometown.

I would give 'for keeps' pottery pieces as collection dishes/jars for anyone who would want one. Let me know what you think.....

- **Visitation Plans for the Summer:** I hope to gradually resume bringing Holy Communion and visiting those

who are homebound. Knowing “COVID isn’t done with us yet”, I will visit private homes (outdoors when possible) and wait until case loads decrease before visiting care homes and the like. Personally, I plan to stay away from events where there are crowds or lots of people in smaller spaces. Limiting my exposure to ‘big people-events’ will hopefully make for more safe in home visits.

The communion visits will entail my bringing the prepackaged bread and wine containers as a way of making the visits a bit safer as well. As always, I’ll wear a mask if we are not maintaining a social distance of two meters (and also will defer to the comfort level of the folk I visit).

Thank you to both congregations for keeping in touch with one another and supporting the efforts we make to visit and minister to folk who aren’t able to be with us in person.

All of us at St. Matthew’s wish all of you a safe and rejuvenating summer season!

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