



September 2019

# The Messenger

## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

9349 E. 65<sup>th</sup> Street, Raytown, Missouri 64133 Phone: 816.353.4592  
Email: [stmattsraytown@gmail.com](mailto:stmattsraytown@gmail.com)

### St. Matthew's Staff

Rev. Orin Cummings  
Rector

Sherry Minzey  
Admin. Assistant

Ron Stockton  
Music Director

Jim Minzey  
Sexton

### Officers

Bill Noone  
Senior Warden

Jason Brooks  
Junior Warden

David Macey  
Treasurer

Linda Gerding  
Secretary

Dave Chullino  
George Miller  
Clerk of the Works

### Service Times

11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service  
Rite II

## From the Rector



Dear Saints,

Greetings in the name of our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and coming Savior Jesus Christ!

Seldom, if ever, do we hear spoken aloud these words from Juliet to Romeo, "Parting is such sweet sorrow" – William Shakespeare. Although, such profound truth is most often deeply felt as when Joy Devin was passing from this life. For each of us in her room at John Knox Hospice, it felt like sorrowful parting is 'sweet' indeed because it made us think about the next time, we will see Joy.

Joy was a daughter, sibling, spouse, mother, in-law, grandmother, friend, and neighbor, but to us she was a sister in Christ. A few months ago, standing in worship for the traditional singing of the birthday song and reflecting on her age, recent hospitalization and diagnosis, and physical challenges going forward, she asked: "Why am I still here?" I responded, "Your name says it all. You inspire joy by your faithfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ."

Goodbyes make you think. They make you realize what you've had, what you've lost, and what you've taken for granted – *Ritu Ghatourey*. Preparing to say goodbye to Joy is difficult and painful even in the Rite of Christian Burial within the Eucharist. Joy was not only a fellow child of God and partner in the gospel, but also a steward of joy. Losing Joy hurts more because our hearts are filled with sorrow.

With Stewardship emphasis month just around the corner, I invite you to ponder: what are you a steward of? As you do, consider Jesus' words: "***I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit***" (John 15:1-2). When thinking about your life in relation to Christ—the true vine (Tree of Life), dwell on baptism.

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Continued from page 1

We were buried by baptism into Christ's death and as Christ was raised so also, we are raised to new life. We acknowledge this to be the work of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, alive in Christ, we produce desired fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). We recognize that St Paul does not mention money as a fruit, although it is implied. He does not mention time, although that too is implied. The desired fruit of our baptism into Christ are treasures to share in time.

As with Joy and others before her, there will be parting sorrow. Yes, we lose a stalwart of the faith and are filled with sorrow. But I remind you, "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5). Indeed, joy is not lost because Christ makes Joy present to us. Now, even in death we are stewards of joy.

In Christ's service,

Fr. Orin

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## The Eagle

"Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

When the storms of life come upon us... and all of us will experience them... we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward Jesus.

The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them. God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure, and disappointment into our lives. We can soar above the storm. Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down, it is how we handle them."

***"Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31.***

Linda Batson, Daughters of the King

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**ST. MATTHEW'S SERVICE & OUTREACH  
R.E.A.P. – OPERATION BACKPACK 2019**

2019 was the 27th Anniversary of REAP handing out school supplies and certificates for a pair of new shoes to children in the Raytown School District.

Through generous donations on three Sunday's in July, designated as "Backpack Sunday's", Parishioners contributed **\$420.00**. Linda Gerding delivered the money to REAP, on July 29th, and then on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> Linda volunteered on behalf of St. Matthew's to help with the distribution of backpacks, books, underwear and socks, for families preparing to send their children back to school.

Again, thanks to everyone in the congregation for their generosity. We **ARE** an active Parish in reaching out and giving back to our Community.

Blessings,  
Linda Gerding  
Service & Outreach Commission



**Elementary, Middle School & High School sorted supplies from 2016,  
but comparable to the 2019 distribution.**

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The St. Matthew's Ladies Luncheon will be held at V's Restaurant on 40 Hwy Saturday, September 14 at 11:30 a.m. Join us for a lot of fun, fellowship, and good food! Call or email Nancy Anderson for reservations.

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**September 20<sup>th</sup>**

**October Messenger-  
Calendar Deadline**



**OFFICE CLOSED**



**SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>**

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**THE 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CROP WALK - 2019**  
**ST. MATTHEW'S TEAM - "ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME"**  
**Sunday Oct. 13, 2019 ~ 2:00 p.m.**

Every year, the Second Sunday of October is designated as "World Hunger Day". It has been the tradition at St. Matthew's to raise funds to alleviate world hunger by walking in Kansas City's annual CROP WALK. The CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) WALK is sponsored by Church World Services who has made its motto "ENOUGH FOR ALL".

The route will be the same as last year and starts at Central United Methodist Church. St. Matthew's Team will join other churches in the Kansas City area to walk in solidarity with those who are hungry.

Last year St. Matthew's was awarded a "Matching Grant" of \$485 from the International Outreach Grant Committee of the Diocese. We hope to apply for another grant this year.

Those of you interested, please "Save the Date" and mark your calendars. This event is an opportunity to wear and show off our "HERE I AM LORD" T-shirts. Carpooling from St. Matthew's will also be available.

An alarming statistic is that a child dies from hunger somewhere in the world every 3 seconds. By supporting the Crop Walk, St. Matthew's has another opportunity to do outreach ministry and help with the MDG's. The #1 Millennium Development Goal: **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.**

Blessings,  
Linda Gerding/Christina Brooks  
Crop Walk Co-Chairs-2019  
Service & Outreach Commission



Picture found on "Kansas City Heart of America CROP Hunger Walk" web page.

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## IN APPRECIATION

On Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup> Eric Story, a longtime and dear friend of Carl Turlin, and a Host to the St. Matthew's Community of Chaplains for several years for their annual retreats, presented to the Parish a special piece of his artwork. Eric wanted to show his gratitude for some recent aide he had received for a medical procedure. Eric copied the dove design from the bookmarks in the back of the pews. The Vestry will decide on a special place to display this lovely gift from Eric.

