

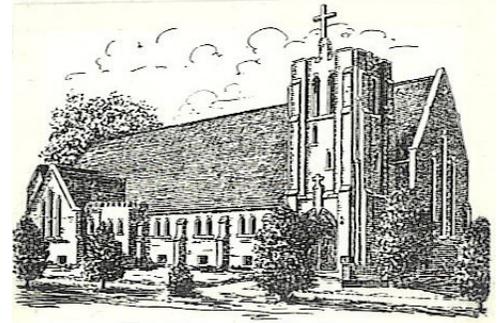


St. Matthew Lutheran Church



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

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Hazen, North Dakota 58545-0523
Pastor's Study #: (701) 748-5561
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April 14, 2020

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you in the Name of the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

I have been praying for all of you that you might remain healthy and safe. Praise God that many are recovering from the Coronavirus and that our knowledge about it is increasing toward better treatment and safety. I miss seeing you in worship but we are still broadcasting Sunday services on our radio spot at 9:00 AM on Sunday. If you have computer access to Facebook, we are livestreaming both Sunday and Wednesday evening service as well as devotions, bible studies, and notifications. This week found us looking at Easter observance without "congregating". As difficult as this may seem, Christ is still the risen Savior. The gift of forgiveness is still valid and your heritage in heaven is still secure. No matter what the days ahead may bring you are baptized and your place in heaven is secure.

We often comment that we are too busy for this and too busy for that; now God has slowed things down. I can remember telling my mom, "I'm bored"...there were a host of things on our little acreage to do. We had some livestock, yard, garden, snow drifts to deal with. We are slowed down now, and things may get even slower. Take opportunity to be in the Word of God, to exercise your faith in the reading of the Catechism, tune in to our Facebook page, and care for your neighbor. You can care for your neighbor over the phone, by praying with or for them; you can still run and errand for those who are vulnerable to infection and disease. Check in with your relatives by phone or other devices. Check in with those who live alone or are isolated as you are.

I want to tell you about a great blessing that is occurring right now. Your pastor has finally gotten with it and learned to post to Facebook and YouTube, (with great help and encouragement from Marie Johnson, Micki Fischer, Jason Lagge, and Dave Grant). Others of you are posting encouragement and support concerning the broadcasts and posts. In that, our worship service recordings and bible studies, our devotions are going out to people all over the community, the country, and even the world. Many other Christian congregations are doing the same thing. The Word of God is going out to the World in great measure. People from Brussels, Belgium, South Africa, and other far away spots are watching and listening to our services. The Word is going out to people in many different cultures. Almost all of our parishes are doing something on the internet to make God's precious Word heard. Many Christians are broadcasting, "You Tubing", and posting about the hope we have in Jesus Christ. God promises to send his Holy Spirit along with the Word to bring sinners to repentance and salvation by faith. The internet, which can be a great distraction, is being used by Christ's church to proclaim the Gospel. The Lord promises that hearing the Word will bear fruit as He chooses.

Take heart! Christ's church on earth is still advancing. Blessed and preserved by Almighty God the church is increasing. You have opportunity in this period of isolation to pray, praise, and give thanks. Remember your offerings to the Lord, as is your duty, knowing that your salvation is already secured. Rest in the Word of God for you with its comfort, encouragement, and peace.

I look forward to when we might worship together face to face in the congregation of Christ's Church

in the place. Until then, keep well, pray without ceasing, rest if you are able, and continue to know that your sins are all forgiven, in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

God's Blessings,
Pastor Kirk Peters



Where the Holy Trinity is present and received in faith, there cannot but be witness (*martyria*), mercy (*diakonia*), and life together (*koinōnia*). These three reflect God's very being as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier and encompass His holy and gracious will for all in Christ Jesus, namely, that all come to believe in and bear witness to Christ, reflect divine compassion, and live together in forgiveness, love, and joy in the Church (see Augsburg Confession 1).
LCMS President Matthew C. Harrison

— Life Together, in the Word:

- * The **Sunday worship services** will continue on the radio (KDKT) every Sunday Morning at 9 AM.
 - * If you have access to the internet, Worship services also will be live on our Facebook page.
 - * **Bible Study** will continue on Sundays @ 10:30 AM, Mondays (10 AM) and Tuesdays (9 AM).
 - * Pastor will also be offering **extra devotions** online, throughout the week.
 - * **ALL the presentations of Worship services, Bible Studies, and Devotions** on our YouTube page (search for St. Matthew LCMS, Hazen, ND).
- For those who do not have the internet you may call the office, to have a CD or DVD made of any worship services, so you can view or listen to them at home with your CD/DVD player.

— Stewardship:

- * Please send your offerings in the mail (our preferred method) to:
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, PO Box 523, Hazen, ND 58545-0523
OR
Come by the church (8 AM - Noon) and ring the doorbell, the church staff will receive your offering.
- * You may contact your financial institution to make arrangements to have your offering deposited directly from your bank account to St. Matthew's general fund.
- * New on our website: **StMatthewHazen.org**, you may give your offering through the GivePlus tab. Enclosed with this letter are step by step instructions how to Give online. You will need the routing number from your bank and the bank account number you are choosing to give from - you'll find this information on your check blanks. We ask that you please play by your checking/savings account. Please, refrain from using the credit card/debit card, if possible, as a fee will need to be paid by the church when using this option.
- * Another choice, for those who have a smart phone, you may choose to load the GivePlus

Vanco app. Instructions to use this app are also enclosed. You will need the routing number from your bank and the bank account number you are choosing to give from - you'll find this information on your check blanks.

— If you have any questions on the use of either of these internet options please feel free to call the office.

Also, remember to be generous with your offerings in these weeks. To continue to do the Lord's work, bills still need to be paid.

— Mercy:

- Care for those who are vulnerable. Find out what needs they have and try to assist.
- Please help keep the building germ free as possible by staying home and not entering the church proper. We are trying to keep the virus out, so we may continue the work needed to be done in the Study and the Office.
- We ask if you or anyone in your household feels sick in anyway, it is encouraged the entire family stay home.
- If you need Pastor care, please, don't hesitate to notify Pastor.

— Witness:

- Sunday School resources: Sunday materials at <https://www.cph.org/default.aspx>
- This letter will serve as our April Monthly Newsletter.
- Our Voters' Meeting will not be held this month. One will be scheduled at another date, after we can gather together again.
- If you would like to stop by and pick up a Portals of Prayer, Lutheran Witness or check out a Hymnal, please do so between the hours of 8 AM - Noon. Ring the doorbell and someone will get them for you or call ahead. These items can also be delivered - just call the office.



We are currently using an iPhone 6 for our worship service live feeds and we are wondering if anyone has a newer smart phone or tablet to donate for this purpose. Maybe you have one in a drawer somewhere. It must be in good working condition - the camera works and the screen is not cracked. Please let the church office know if you can help out.



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Alvin Scheid
- 2 Erna Unterseher
Peggy Vega
Heather Vigesaa
- 3 Todd Rosaaen
- 5 Brent Sorensen
- 6 Tim Faut
- 9 Jacob Olson
- 10 Marjorie Richter
- 14 Mick Johnson
- 15 LaRoy Lennie
- 17 Scott Bornemann
- 19 Justin Weisz
- 20 Abraham Galster
- 21 Briar Bornemann
- 22 Renae Snyder
- 24 Lloyd Huber
- 25 Laverne Faut
Graci Miller



Happy Anniversary!

- 8 Blaine & Micki Fischer
- 11 Bruce & April Sloan
- 18 David & Judy Fitzgerald
- 23 Elmer & Carol Schiermeister
- 27 Cledus & Deanna Wiedrich

April





THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

TEACHING THE FAITH — APRIL 1-15

This month, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod celebrates the many ways that God's children are instructed, encouraged and strengthened in the faith. By teaching the faith, we nurture the faithful and reach the lost.

Remember how God works to strengthen the faith of His people as you pray:

- 1.** *with thanksgiving for the gift of faith received at Baptism.* Ask the Lord to continue to strengthen that faith — and the budding faith of our children — until we depart this life and are united with the Lord.
- 2.** *with thanksgiving to God for the gift of His holy and inspired Word, the Sacred Scriptures;* and for the Book of Concord and the many teaching aids that help us understand that Word aright and rejoice in its consolation.

3. *for Christian families,* that the Lord would provide the assistance and tools necessary to overcome every challenge — big or small — that might drive them apart.

4. *for strong Christian marriages,* that husbands and wives would cling to each other in the Lord, despite life's challenges, and raise their children to walk in the way of the Lord.

5. *for Christian parents,* that they would make teaching the faith to their children a priority. Pray that they set aside time to worship together, talk about faith issues, study the Bible and have family devotions.

6. *that family members would treat each other with kindness and patience,* so that each member might be built up in the family of God.

7. *for our children and young people,* who face daily assaults on their Christian beliefs, that God would strengthen and encourage them to stand firm while sharing the Gospel.

8. *for our churches,* that they would provide useful education and programs to help equip people at every stage of life — teens, husbands and wives, parents, caretakers of aging parents and more.

9. *that God would continue to provide faithful church workers to serve as role models and teach people about their identity as a baptized child of God.*

10. *that church members would eagerly volunteer their time and talents to support the congregation's educational programs, such as vacation Bible school, Sunday school and groups for young families.*

11. *that LCMS members would eagerly participate in Bible studies, small-group discussions and private study.*

12. *with thanksgiving for faithful parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers and other role models who help to "train up a child in the way he should go" (Prov. 22:6).*

13. *for the Concordia University System and the Synod's two seminaries,* that the Lord would bless their work in training new generations of workers to serve the Church.

14. *for the Synod's directors of Family Life Ministry,* that God would bless their efforts to support healthy relationships in the families of our congregations.

15. *that we might have hearts that are willing and eager to serve the Lord in every way.*

APRIL Pray For Us Calendar

MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES — APRIL 16-30

Since the Civil War, LCMS pastors have served as military chaplains. Today, the Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) supports active duty, reserves, National Guard and Civil Air Patrol chaplains. MAF recruits, interviews and endorses all military chaplains and supports them throughout their careers. MAF also provides a network of care for our nation's military members, families and veterans through Operation Barnabas.

Remember God's work through LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) as you pray:

16. that God would bless and guide the work of the MAF director and assistant director.

17. for the President of the United States. Ask God to guide our commander in chief to lead with wisdom for the protection of the innocent against evil.

18. for LCMS military chaplains serving on active duty for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

19. for our LCMS Reserve and National Guard chaplains, especially those who have been mobilized stateside or overseas and taken from their parishes to extended active duty assignments, for those deployed, their families and their home parishes.

20. for Operation Barnabas, which is designed to meet the needs of congregations in the event their pastor/chaplain is mobilized. Operation Barnabas also seeks to assist veterans and military families during and after deployment.

21. for all congregations that reach out to members of our military through Operation Barnabas, that they would uphold them in prayer as they help to meet their physical, psychological and spiritual needs through the training they have received and the Lord's provision.

22. for increasing opportunities for LCMS chaplains to spread Christ's message of salvation, hope and restoration to those they serve.

23. for all chaplains returning home, that they would receive a hero's welcome for their

sacrifice to this country so that in freedom we can continue to openly worship the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

24. for those who suffer from battle stress and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Pray that God would bring healing and renewal to those who have served or who are currently serving.

25. for all chaplains who are sick or have sick family members, that the Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort would look with favor upon them, and as it pleases Him, restore them to health or give them the grace to accept this tribulation with courage and hope.

26. for all chaplains in harm's way, that God would not let their hearts despair nor their faith fail them, but sustain, guide and comfort them.

27. for all members of the military who were disabled during their duty, that our heavenly Father would mercifully guide, aid and strengthen all

those with physical disabilities, enabling them to find fulfillment in their lives and encouragement for all their endeavors.

28. with thanksgiving to God for providing LCMS chaplains to serve members of the armed forces. Please pray that military chaplains would have every opportunity to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with members of the military and anyone with whom they work and live.

29. for all military chaplains upon their return, that they would be reunited with their families, find gainful employment and receive all the care they need to heal their minds, bodies and souls. Grant that they would always look to Christ as their rock and their redeemer.

30. for those who minister to the armed forces, that by God's gracious working, they may honor Christ and advance the good of those committed to their care, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

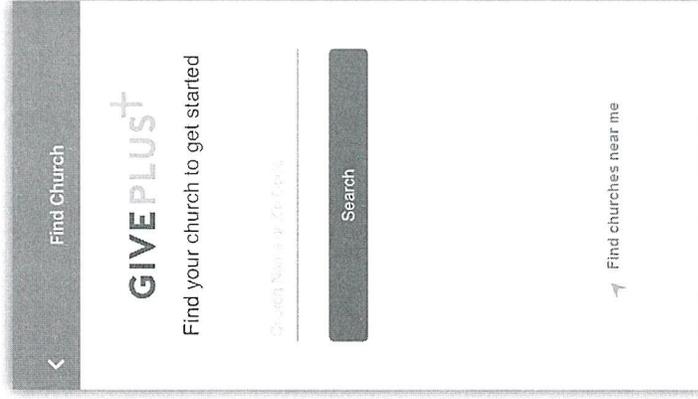
Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.



How to Use GivePlus Mobile

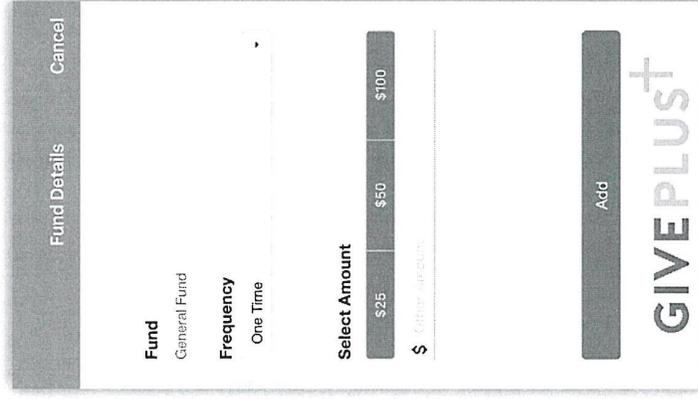
Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus" to download the app for free.

1. Search



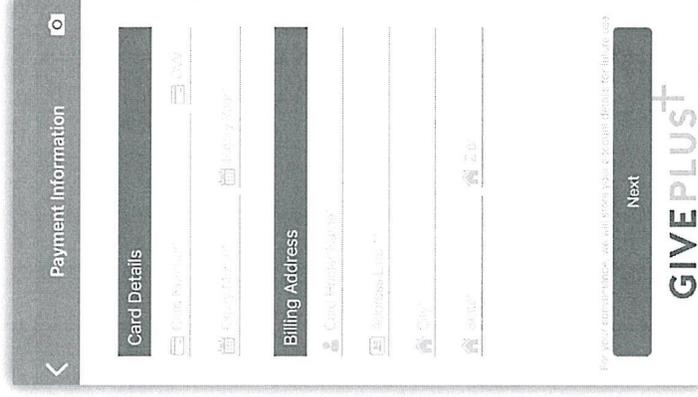
Enter your church's name or ZIP code and click **Search**. Select your church and click **Give Now**.

2. Select



Select a fund, enter your donation amount and click **Add**.

3. Scan



Scan or enter your credit/debit card or bank account information.

4. Submit



Review and click **Complete Donation**.

VANCO



Simple. Convenient. Secure.

Create a GivePlus account to track donations and set up recurring gifts.

Create

First Name
Last Name
E-Mail
New Password
Confirm Password
Submit

Enter your church's name or ZIP code and click Search. Select your church from the list, then click Create Account.

Manage



Click the menu icon to manage personal information, review donations and add/update payment methods.

Schedule

Fund Details
Fund
General Fund
Frequency
Monthly
Starts On
Ends On
Select Amount
\$25 \$50 \$100
Add

Click Select Frequency the next time you give to set up recurring donations.

Review

Next Payment	Frequency	Amount
07/25/17	Biweekly	\$5
07/26/17	Biweekly	\$9
07/25/17	Monthly	\$6
07/26/17	Weekly	\$7

General Fund
Community Outreach
Start Date 07/26/17
End Date None
Payment Method **** 8585

Select Giving History to view past donations. Select Recurring Donations from the menu to view or delete scheduled donations.

How to Use GivePlus Online

Go to: StMatthewHazen.org

1. Select fund and amount.

Select Add Donation.

(You can choose a donation frequency if you create a GivePlus Account. If you choose to sign up for a GivePlus account, you can review giving history, manage recurring donations or update payment information.)

Select Next.

The screenshot shows the 'GivePlus+' section of the website. It includes a navigation menu at the top with links for Home, News, Bulletin, Calendar, History, Ministries, and Sermons. Below the navigation is a search bar. The main heading is 'GivePlus+' with a sub-heading 'Remember your congregation by giving your offerings.' There are two input fields for 'Fund' (one selected as 'General Fund') and 'Amount' (set to '\$ 50'). A 'Total: \$0.00' is displayed at the bottom right of the form area. A 'Next' button is located at the bottom center.

The screenshot shows the 'Pay by Checking/Savings Account' form. It includes fields for Name (John Smith), Address (PO Box 523, Hazen, ND 58545), and Account Number (123456789). There are radio buttons for 'Checking' (selected) and 'Savings'. A 'Next' button is at the bottom center. A security notice at the bottom states: 'GivePlus uses HTTPS to ensure the security and privacy of your personal information. For your convenience, we will store your payment method for future use.' A 'SECURE' logo is in the bottom right corner.

2. Enter you name and address.

Enter banking information as explained.

Select Next.

The screenshot shows the 'Donation Summary' page. It lists the donor's name as 'John Smith' and the account number as '****2345'. There are checkboxes for 'Email Receipt' (unchecked) and 'Email *' (checked). A table shows the donation details:

Fund	Amount
General Fund	\$50.00
	One Time

The total amount is '\$50.00'. At the bottom, there are 'Back' and 'Donate Now' buttons. A 'SECURE' logo is in the bottom right corner.

3. Review and submit your gift by clicking Donate Now.