



St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

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January 2019 Newsletter

I'm not perfect; I make mistakes. So, what?

In 2013, the Florida State Seminoles were celebrated as college football's BCS Champions after completing a perfect 14-0 season. In the 135-year history of Major League Baseball, only 23 pitchers have tossed a perfect game. Each of those 23 pitchers is widely celebrated for accomplishing one of baseball's rarest individual feats. In 2009, USA Today reported that a Michigan teen got a perfect score on her ACT—and her SAT—and her PSAT! She was rewarded with a full-ride scholarship to Princeton University.

If perfection is so celebrated because of its rarity, should the opposite be true as well? Should imperfection be condemned? I mean, if perfection is considered the rarest of all feats, shouldn't it be considered acceptable if the rest of us don't achieve such a vaunted status? Nobody's perfect at life! We all make mistakes. Who cares?

God cares. While imperfections are an accepted part of life for us, they are not acceptable to our God. Imperfections run contrary to the way God intended this world to function. When he finished his work of creation, God was pleased to know that everything worked in harmony. There were no imperfections; "God saw all that he made and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

Our imperfections are therefore an offense to our perfect creator God. They are not excused; they are not overlooked. They are punished for the offense that they are.

Sure, nobody's perfect. That's why we need someone to be perfect for us.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Yes, Jesus Christ who had no sin or imperfection became our imperfection so that he might receive all of the punishment that we deserved, paying for it all by his death on the cross. In return, he grants us the perfection that we could not achieve on our own. In Christ we become "the righteousness of God."

As much as we celebrate individual accomplishments of perfection—the perfect season, the perfect game, or the perfect test score—how much greater can we celebrate the perfection that is ours by faith in Jesus Christ! In Christ you are perfect; believe it! Celebrate it! Live it!

For more Questions & Answers, go to www.WhatAboutJesus.com, then *Questioning God*.

-Taken from WELS Outreach Committee

Quarterly Voters' Meeting Our Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held on Monday, January 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. Items on the agenda include church council nominations, moving the approval of new members to the Church Council, using existing funds to give scholarships to MLC students, reissuing a call to Amy Bohme and expanding the call to 77% vs. 70%, and expanding PreK. In addition, we'll hear reports on how every group is working to carry out our mission. Please make every effort to attend.

The Nominating Committee will begin the process of looking for candidates to serve on Church Council. Terms for current council members expire at the end of June and positions will need to be filled. If you are willing to serve on Council, please talk to Pastor Schoell or Cory Putz. If you are asked to serve on Council, please prayerfully consider accepting. This is a great way to serve your Lord and the congregation of St. Matthew's.

Women of Faith The area WELS, Women of Faith Bible Study, will meet on Saturday, January 12, 2019, at Goodview-Trinity Church, (820 37th Avenue, Goodview) at 9:00am.

Offering Envelopes for 2019 Offering envelopes for 2019 are available for pick up in the church basement. They are arranged alphabetically on the pews in the basement fellowship area.

Want to play cards in January? Mark January 13 on your calendar! We will meet after the 10:15 Bible Class for lunch and then play 500. We would appreciate if you could sign up in advance, so we know how many to expect for lunch. There is a \$5.00 donation asked for the cost of food.

Stay In, Stay Warm January is often a cold month indicating staying inside to stay warm and cozy. So...our fundraiser for Women's Fellowship this cold and chilly month is an easy, no-pain and no-cold event. Please just drop off your voluntary contribution in the envelope provided for which you might have spent to enjoy a dinner out. We will use it for building enhancement needs.

Taking Down the Decorations Everyone is invited to join Adult Fellowship in taking down and packing away this year's Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 6th. We will start with a potluck lunch after Bible class. COME ONE – COME ALL.

Prayer Partners are wanting to serve you. Request a prayer at SMLCPP@gmail.com, by using in the gold box in the narthex, or by speaking to the pastors, Susan Gannaway, Joleen Smith, or Barb Gurgel.

Library News In the past several weeks our church services presented the Christmas story from four different perspectives. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each told of the Savior's birth in their own unique way. Four Portraits of the One Savior explains why Scripture includes four gospels. This short book will help you to catch individual features in each gospel and understand why they are there. You may even feel that one of the of the gospels was written just for you. Look for it on the NPH shelf.

The Caring Committee at St. Matthew's is available to help members in the following ways: Assist with driving for shopping, doctor appointments, etc. for shut-ins and/or for members temporarily unable to drive. We can provide a meal for a family or individual when a severe illness strikes. Visit a member in the hospital or long-term care facility during a lengthy illness or recovery period. Contact recent widows or widowers to see how they are doing. Assist/or help schedule work days for cleaning up yard, garage, etc. for elderly or disabled members.

To make a request for help (this would be confidential) for yourself or another member please contact Pastor Schoell or Sue Berg (507-454-5265) or e-mail: jberg@hbc.com

Club 3:16 will meet on January 27th at 11:30am. **Transformed Youth** will meet on January 20th at 10:15am. Both groups will meet in the Club 3:16 room.

100th Anniversary Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 9 at 6:00pm.

Extra Funeral Planning documents are available in the back of church. Completed forms can be dropped off at the church office. Pastor Schoell is happy to answer any questions you may have.

Membership changes

In:

Out: Hunter Lisowski by transfer to Immanuel Lutheran in LaCrosse WI

Jennifer Blank by release

Bruce & Linda Fort by release

Those who have gone home to Heaven: