

Adoration Evangelical Lutheran Church

ETCERA



• AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2021 •

From the Files of Pastor Matt

When I was a middle-schooler, I went to Confirmation Camp with my church. We spent lots of time swimming in the lake, playing camp games, and singing fun camp songs. I also remember the worship services, which were filled with emotion. On the last night of camp, our counselors invited kids forward to give a personal testimony of how their time at camp and learning about Jesus had transformed their lives.

Moved less by the Holy Spirit and inspired much more by my desire to impress the cute girl from Iowa who sat behind us in the chapel, I made my way to the front. Holding my 3rd-grade Good News Bible in the air, tears and snot making my testimony nearly impossible to hear, I choked out what I believed camp had taught me. **I ... just ... have to read this book ... my Bible ... a whole lot more.**

I went back to my cabin, convinced that I was going to read the whole Bible from beginning to end. I opened up to Genesis 1, kept a flashlight as I made it to Noah and the flood, and then fell asleep, the long lists of the genealogies boring me into slumber.

A number of years later, I remembered this now funny story, and realized that even as a pastor, reading the Bible is always something we can do more in our lives. Not to earn us salvation, of course. I'm pretty sure there's no quiz at the pearly gates.

But I am quite sure there are many reasons it's hard to open and read the Bible a whole lot more. There's a lot of confusing stuff. There's a lot of baggage and a lot of verses that have been used to clobber folks. There's plenty of things that can leave us feeling shame or guilt or doubt about our faith and our relationship with God.

Yet, I still believe the Bible is a wonderful compilation of God's promises to us and for us, and is worth dipping a toe into exploring. Perhaps you're looking for a sign to start reading scripture again. Maybe you're looking for an invitation to explore what the Bible means for us in the ELCA. Maybe you'd like to invite a friend from outside our church family.

continued



Sandy Ringwall (left) and Gloria Becker (right) enjoy time with Elly Kitoi who was recently visiting from Tanzania. Elly, Bishop Elias' wife, will deliver 35 masks to the Nkoaranga Hospital in Tanzania when she returns (sincere thanks to our very own Joyce Weinert for her generous gift of these handmade masks)! During her short visit in Milwaukee, Elly took time for a short stop at Adoration, one of the first churches she and her family worshiped at 20 years ago. She and the bishop now reside back in their home near Arusha, Tanzania; their three children live in the Milwaukee area. We are always excited to have Elly with us.

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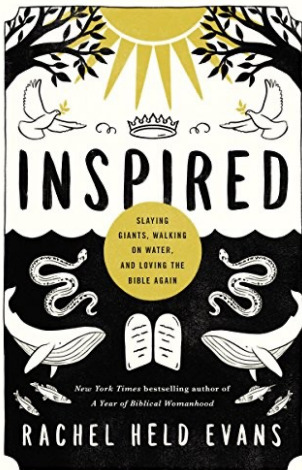
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Coming this fall, I want to invite you to consider exploring the Bible together with me. Explore it anew. And explore it with the help of a competent and trusted guide in the popular book, **Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again.**



The book's author, Rachel Held Evans, was a woman of deep faith who has journeyed through the many different forms of Christianity, and her take on how to encounter and read the Bible will help us as we talk, process, and learn. If you'd like to purchase the book, please do so -- if you'd like me to order it, please let me know by Sunday, September 5. We'll use the themes and writings in lots of our life together--in formal study groups, in video devotions, and even sometimes in parts of our worship life together.

Stay tuned for more details as we--together as Adoration--unpack what scripture and our re-discovery of it might mean as we grow deeper in our faith and life with Jesus!

Pastor Matt

ADORATION CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The council met in person for its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 10. Highlights included:

- July offerings were lower than budget and expenses ran higher due to three pay periods in the month. The congregation remains in the black for the fiscal year and in good financial position.
- The Council received updates from the BIB Committee, encouraging folks to mask as COVID variants emerge.
- The Council received the resignation of Office Administrator Amanda Robison and approved a job description as the process of seeking a new administrator will begin.
- The Council approved moving forward in consultation with the City of Greenfield as they seek to determine if Adoration may serve as a polling place beginning in February 2022.
- The Council discussed moving forward and implementing some of the goals of the Mission Exploration (MET) process. They will discuss the MET goals and outcomes at the September meeting.
- The Council discussed the upcoming installation service, book sale, and communications.



Pastor Matt is disappointed his very special August 15 service of installation at Adoration had to be post-poned. Fortunately, he is already feeling much better and his isolation will end on Friday, Aug 20.

The installation service will be rescheduled and take place in the near future. Stay tuned as it will be just as special, and include the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and their pastor (and Pr. Matt's wife), Pr. Delaney Schlake-Kruse.

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED, JILL!

Adoration member Jill Lindberg will soon be leaving the greater Milwaukee area to be closer to her daughter in Philadelphia. As a congregation, we thank Jill for her presence among us in the family at Adoration, for sharing her many gifts with us, and wish her well in her move.

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant, Jill, who has enriched this community. Now bless and preserve her at this time of transition. Day by day, guide her and give her what is needed, friends to cheer her way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling her. By your Holy Spirit be present in her pilgrimage, that she may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mark your calendars



ADORATION'S BOOK SALE !!

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thurs, Aug 19

also 6-8 p.m.

Fri, Aug 20

Sat, Aug 21

hardcovers \$2
paperbacks 50¢

AUGUST 25: Parents of children at Adoration! Pastor Matt wants to meet with you to hear how we might best shape the faith of our young people and meet your family's desires and needs for youth education. He hopes you can attend a Faith Formation Forum for families at church on Wednesday, Aug. 25 at 7:15 p.m. Please email or text him to RSVP.

THURSDAY DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR MATT: Pastor Matt's weekly devotional (available each Thursday) can be found via www.adorationLC.org and our Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/TJXIY-Y5lmM>

If you miss church but still wish to hear Pastor Matt's sermons, they are available to hear in audio link on the welcome page of our website and at 414-250-0312

ADORATION'S PHONE-A-SERMON SERVICE: Did you know Adoration has a (free to you) phone-in service that allows you to listen to the sermon each week? You can call our special number at **414-250-0312**. A voice will prompt you to press "1" followed by the "#" sign on your phone. The sermon of the week will then be heard. At other times of the year, there may be other extensions with other options for you to choose among. If you are at home or traveling or anywhere else without an internet connection and still wish to hear the sermon of the week, give it a try. See Barb Regent if you have any questions.

SEPTEMBER 25: Outreach for Hope 2021 Ride Run Walk, a family FUNraising event is Sat, Sept 25! Register at ORHRRW.org to participate in (or volunteer at) one of the four event sites in Waukesha, Ozaukee, Racine/Kenosha or Milwaukee counties OR do a virtual ride, run or walk on your own between now and Sept. 25.

OCTOBER 9: Women of the ELCA convention is Saturday, Oct. 9 at Mount Zion Lutheran Church, 12012 W. North Ave, Wauwatosa. Register by contacting Karen, 414-421-9249 / ksh3231gw@sbcglobal.net

YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATIONS are welcome! Please bring non-perishable food items to support the Ascension Food Pantry—they are currently asking for extra donations of cereals: Just for Kix, why don't you think about dropping off a few boxes? The pantry guests will Cheer-io to see their favorite cereals! We know that Adoration will be great at Raisin Brand new boxes of cereal and other goods—and remember, you can always support hunger ministries with Chex. Use the cart in the entryway and drop off items on your way into worship! Thanks for your continued support.

BUY SCHOOL KIT ITEMS NOW! We will be sending school kits to Lutheran World Relief. Watch for items on sale in July and August to purchase for donations; Cheryl Stefanski is making school bags. Updates may be found at www.LWR.org / We can only include the following items:

- 70-sheet notebooks (wide or college ruled)
- 12"/30 cm rulers / Pencil sharpeners
- Blunt-tipped scissors / 2-1/2" erasers
- Unsharpened #2 pencils w/erasers
- Ballpoint pens (black or blue) – no gel
- 16 or 24 boxed crayons

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Preceptor Hospice volunteers help to empower patients and their families through each stage of their journey. Serving the southeastern Wisconsin—contact Jennifer to learn more about opportunities 262-735-4297 / jennifer.muckerheide@preceptorhhh.com / www.preceptorhc.com

COVID-19 VACCINATION HAS BEGUN IN TANZANIA. Bishop Kitoi was among the first to be vaccinated to lead by example and reassure people that it's safe and the only best option available to stay safe. They are calling upon all members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania Diocese of Meru to get vaccinated. It's safe and it's God who has made it possible for this vaccine to become a reality. They commend and thank their government not only for this wise decision to allow COVID-19 vaccinations into the country but also for financing it fully that it's now accessible to all at no cost.

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 15—SEPTEMBER 15

8/16 Joyce Tevs
 8/17 Margaret Duris
 8/18 James Willms
 8/19 Deanna Posig
 8/21 Anglica Thiele
 8/22 Suzanne Szemborski
 8/23 Denise Kowalczyk
 8/24 Shari Katzenmaier, Marcy Laude
 9/1 Everett Weymier
 9/2 Aubrey Lancour
 9/4 Tania Voigt Beyler
 9/11 Ruth Bauer
 9/12 Luke Schneider
 9/14 Patricia Harton

ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST 15—SEPTEMBER 15

8/15 Frank & Jayne Bednar
 Tony & Kristina Gavitt
 8/18 Craig & Tania Voigt Beyler
 8/24 Luke & Kelly Lewitzke
 8/25 Richard & Joann Voegeli
 8/29 Wayne & Diane Anderson
 9/4 Anand & Janette Kumar
 9/6 Glenwood & Yvonne Schallhorn
 9/7 Kevin & Annette Ziolkowski
 9/14 Gregory & Lauren Lang

News & Notes

Calling all shutterbugs! Do you like photography? Does your family ask you to take the family photos? Would you consider yourself to have a “good eye?” Pastor Matt is looking for people interested in taking photographs of our life together as church, the building and grounds, and parts of worship. If you think this might be something you could do, call, email or text him!

Bible Study continues on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 but is now a hybrid format: We meet in person at church and have members tune in via Zoom. Everyone is welcome.

Please consider being part of Adoration’s Prayer Circle. This is important to our fellowship and greatly appreciated. Contact Judy Goodwin at 414-281-9368.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE: My work as an editor will be picking up again this fall, and in this next step of my vocational journey, I’m leaving Adoration at the end of the month. I came here to help “for just a few months” that turned into a year and a half – in large part because you are such a warm and welcoming group of people. It’s been a joy to work among you (although it was only just recently that I met some of you!) despite the difficult situation during the lockdown and some major changes here and in the world. August 31 is my last day in the office, and I’ll leave with thanks and gratitude for knowing you! ~ Amanda

If you or someone you love is hospitalized or for any reason wishes Pastor Matt might visit, please feel free to contact him at 920-484-8050

Mission Statement

Living in God’s love we share the good news of Jesus through spirited worship, serving God in our daily lives, creating a welcoming space to all, providing outreach, educating the young and old, and creating worldwide partnerships.