

# The Messenger



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SEPTEMBER  
2023



## WHAT IS AND WHAT COULD BE

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September 21 is the day appointed in the Church Year to remember Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist. (Please note that his former occupation as a tax collector for the Roman government, is not in the title. This is as *it* should be, since Jesus invited Matthew to imagine what could be.) However, former tax collector is quickly remembered in the Gospel of Matthew reading appointed for the day.

***“As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.***

*And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said **to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners.” But when he (Jesus) heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”***

If you were a tax collector, you worked for Herod Antipas, a ruler allowed to rule by the Romans. Rome, occupied Palestine

*Cont. on pg. 2*



**From the Pastor***Cont. from pg. 1*

and considered it a part of the Roman Empire. As a defeated nation, taxes needed to be paid to the Romans and one of the primary needs for these taxes was to support the Roman army. So, not only were you reminded by the presence of the soldiers that you were a conquered nation, you had to help pay for them being there.

As a Jewish man working for the Romans, collecting money to help keep the occupation going, and making a good living by cheating people in the process, you did not make many friends, except perhaps, **fellow tax collectors and “other sinners”**. Well, **Matthew had made the decision to do this and, like it or not, this was his life. That is, until he met Jesus.**

I think that Jesus not only sees us as we are, but also imagines how we can be. We may have trouble seeing ourselves differently, but Jesus can imagine for us and in his invitation, **“follow me”, invites us to dream and act anew.** Scripture tells us this is not age restricted. Lots of young

folks, lots of older folks, and plenty of folks in between, change their lives, their hopes and dreams as they walk with Jesus.

What happened to Matthew? He traveled with Jesus as one of the 12 disciples. He was witness to the agony of Jesus’ passion and then was a witness to seeing the resurrected Savior. He is associated with the writing of the Gospel that bears his name. We do not know much more, but tradition has him ministering in Judea and even going on to share the Gospel in Ethiopia and Persia.

Matthew reminds us that Jesus sees us as we are, but also sees what we can be if we follow him. Jesus changes people. He changes all of us!

*In Christ,  
Pastor Chuck*

## Joy in the Morning

What do we, who today no longer have any fear or awe of the darkness or night, know about great joy that our forebears and the early Christians felt every morning at the return of the light? If we were to learn again something of the praise and adoration that is due the triune God early in the morning, then we would also begin to sense something of the joy that comes when night is past and those who dwell with one another come together early in the morning to praise their God and hear the Word and pray together. We would learn again of God the Father and Creator who has preserved our life through the dark night and awakened us to a new day; God the Son and Savior of the World, who vanquished death and hell for us, and dwells in our midst as Victor; God the Holy Spirit who pours the **bright light of God's Word into our hearts early in the morning, driving away all darkness and sin and teaching us to pray the right way.** Morning does not belong to the individual; it belongs to all the church **of the triune God, to the community of Christians living together...**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer





**August**





# **Carnival**

**Saturday September 16, 2023**

**11am – 2pm**

**Come for some free food; live music; games for all ages; meet new neighbors; and enjoy the day!**

**Feel free to bring lawn chairs or blankets**

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# **Blessing of the Animals**

**Wednesday October 4, 2023**

**6pm**

**On the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi  
we will bless animals in an outdoor service.**

**You and your pets are most welcome.**

**Feel free to bring lawn chairs or blankets**

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## Daily Scripture Readings for SEPTEMBER

Fri – Sept 1	Jeremiah 15:1-9	2 Thessalonians 2:7-12	Psalm 26:1-8	
Sat – Sept 2	Jeremiah 15:10-14	Matthew 8:14-17	Psalm 26:1-8	
Sunday Sep 3	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Psalm 26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
Mon – Sept 4	2 Samuel 11:2-26	Revelation 3:1-6	Psalm 17	
Tue – Sept 5	2 Samuel 11:27b–12:15	Revelation 3:7-13	Psalm 17	
Wed – Sept 6	Jeremiah 17:5-18	Matthew 12:22-32	Psalm 17	
Thu – Sept 7	Ezekiel 24:1-14	2 Corinthians 12:11-21	Psalm 119:33-40	
Fri – Sept 8	Ezekiel 24:15-27	Romans 10:15b-21	Psalm 119:33-40	
Sat – Sept 9	Ezekiel 33:1-6	Matthew 23:29-36	Psalm 119:33-40	
Sunday Sept 10	Ezekiel 33:7-11	Psalm 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Mon – Sept 11	Leviticus 4:27-31; 5:14-16	1 Peter 2:11-17	Psalm 119:65-72	
Tue – Sept 12	Deuteronomy 17:2-13	Romans 13:1-7	Psalm 119:65-72	
Wed – Sept 13	Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28	Matthew 21:18-22	Psalm 119:65-72	
Thu – Sept 14	Genesis 37:12-36	1 John 3:11-16	Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13	
Fri – Sept 15	Genesis 41:53–42:17	Acts 7:9-16	Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13	
Sat – Sept 16	Genesis 45:1-20	Matthew 6:7-15	Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13	
Sunday Sept 17	Genesis 50:15-21	Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 (8)	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Mon – Sept 18	Genesis 48:8-22	Hebrews 11:23-29	Psalm 133	
Tue – Sept 19	Genesis 49:29–50:14	Romans 14:13–15:2	Psalm 133	
Wed – Sept 20	Genesis 50:22-26	Mark 11:20-25	Psalm 133	
Thu – Sept 21	Nahum 1:1, 14–2:2	2 Corinthians 13:1-4	Psalm 145:1-8	
Fri – Sept 22	Nahum 2:3-13	2 Corinthians 13:5-10	Psalm 145:1-8	
Sat – Sept 23	Zephaniah 2:13-15	Matthew 19:23-30	Psalm 145:1-8	
Sunday Sept 24	Jonah 3:10–4:11	Psalm 145:1-8 (8)	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
Mon – Sept 25	Genesis 27:1-29	Romans 16:1-6	Psalm 106:1-12	
Tue – Sept 26	Genesis 28:10-17	Romans 16:17-20	Psalm 106:1-12	
Wed – Sept 27	Isaiah 41:1-13	Matthew 18:1-5	Psalm 106:1-12	
Thu – Sept 28	Ezekiel 12:17-28	James 4:11-16	Psalm 25:1-9	
Fri – Sept 29	Ezekiel 18:5-18	Acts 13:32-41	Psalm 25:1-9	
Sat – Sept 30	Ezekiel 18:19-24	Mark 11:27-33	Psalm 25:1-9	



9/17 Caden Gay

9/18 Cindy Phillips

9/25 Lynn Andrews



Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>  
From 5:00-6:45pm

# SEPT. 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
 <p><i>A Moment of Remembrance</i> September 11, 2001</p>					1	2
<p>3 Fourteenth Week After Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p>4 <i>Labor day</i></p> <p>5:30pm—AA</p>	5	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 am—Quilting</p>	7	8	9
<p>10 Fifteenth Week After Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm—AA</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 am—Quilting</p>	14	15	<p>16</p> <p><i>Carnival</i> 11-2</p>
<p>17 Sixteenth Week After Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30pm—AA</p>	19	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 am—Quilting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Adult Inquiry Class 6:15pm</p>	22	23
<p>24 Seventeenth Week After Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30pm—AA</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 am—Quilting</p>	28	29	30