

In Tribute and Celebration of St. Matthew's 90 Years in God's Service

For ninety years this church has been a servant to God's word
In reaching out in answer to the call that once was heard.

It was the call that Jesus made to Peter long ago -
To feed His lambs and tend His sheep -
the call that we all know.

Feed My Lambs!

We have been faithful to that call and answered, "Lord, we will!"
We proudly did what Christ had asked and proudly do it still.

Our meals programs have always fed those people who have known
The pain of hunger deep inside that makes one feel alone.

We've helped to stock the shelves with food for others in their need;
For they, too, are the lambs of God whose cries we always heed.

So many hundreds have been fed by meals that we have packed
To give them daily sustenance from simple meals they lacked.

For ninety years we have been blest ... the call our church did heed
As Christ now smiles and says to us ... "You've fed my lambs, indeed!"

But feeding those in time of need still answers only part
Of what the Lord requires of us - it's only just a start.

Tend My Sheep

So many Sundays have gone by as pastors preached God's word
And helped build faith down through the years by all that we have heard.

They baptized and confirmed us, too, and joined us as we wed.
They counseled and consoled our grief when one of ours was dead.

They've kept the vows which they had made to lead us in Christ's path
And, yes, sometimes we must admit, they've even made us laugh.

Our Sunday School has always been where seeds of faith were sown
As lessons from the Bible were where childhood faith has grown.

We've answered many calls for help down thru these ninety years.
We've wiped away the tears of those who struggled with life's fears.

Somehow we've found a way to help - not thru a sense of pride -
But in response to Christ's own call our arms have opened wide!

We've reached beyond our country's shore to share our faith and give
Our help to people who just want in dignity to live.

And when a new call comes to us - God puts us to the test -
We proudly say, "We hear You, Lord!" and strive to do our best.

So people of St. Matthew's you can hold your head up high
As Christ looks down and smiles on you from heav'n beyond the sky.

But now our future lies ahead - so much is left to do -
The legacy we leave behind is up to me and you.

Pick up the cross which Christ gave us and gladly bear its load
To tend His sheep that lie ahead on down the future's road.

Amen.

~~Chuck Shantz, May 2010



St. Matthew's

Ev. Lutheran Church ✝ ELCA

Celebrating 90 Years of Ministry