



# DSL CONNECTION

## SEPTEMBER 2019

**Divine Savior  
Lutheran Church  
405 Ingram Rd.  
Devine, Texas  
78016**

[www.divinesaviorlc.org](http://www.divinesaviorlc.org)

**9:00 AM  
Sunday School  
&  
Bible Class**

**10:00 AM  
Fellowship**

**10:30 AM  
Divine Service**

**Holy Communion  
Every Sunday**

**Pastor:  
Randall  
Wehmeyer**

**Email:  
rcwehmeyer@yahoo.com**

**Office:  
830-663-3735**

**Lutheran Church—  
Missouri Synod**



September 21 is designated by the Church as the day of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist. This year, that day falls on a Saturday. This festival reminds us of the grace of God that changed a man from being a social outcast, literally “a tax collector,” to being a great apostle and witness of the faith. Assigned Scripture Readings for this day are: *Ezekiel 2:8-3:11*, *Ephesians 2:4-10*, and *Matthew 9:9-13*.

It is important for us to be familiar with the story of St. Matthew, since in it we have a beautiful picture of the richness of God’s grace that changes us from death to life. Yet apart from the story of his calling, we know very little about his life. The name “Matthew” means “gift of God.”

Mark and Luke call him “Levi” in their parallels to the Gospel, although both refer to him as Matthew in their lists of the disciples. “Levi” may mean “attached,” based on Leah’s cry of hope that with her third son perhaps Jacob will become more attached to her (Genesis 29:34). Perhaps the change in names reflects a change in character—going from one who is attached (to the world or money?) to one who has received the gift of grace from God. Irenaeus and Clement of Alexandria both claim that Matthew spent some 15 years preaching among the Hebrews. Other *tradition* (not actual written facts) tells us that Matthew preached in Ethiopia. We do not know the manner of his death.

Besides the story of his calling, the only other detail of which we are reasonably sure is that from the earliest days Matthew was recognized as the author of the first Gospel. Through this Gospel we get a glimpse of the love that Matthew has for the Lord and the zeal he had for sharing the Good News, evidenced especially in the last verses of the book (28:16–20). The most common symbols for Matthew include a winged man (suggested by Ezekiel 1:1–10 and 10:8–14) or three moneybags (for his earlier profession).

Just like Matthew, the Lord has graciously transformed you from being dead in your sins to alive in Christ. You are one who was spiritually poor but has been made rich in the Lord. What a gift! What a blessing! Like Matthew, you have become truly rich, truly wise. Like Matthew, in some way, in thankfulness to God, can you share your story? Who do you know in your life that is dead in sin and needs to be made alive in Christ? What a mission field you have before you.

We pray: O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

