



**HISTORIC ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**“COMEDOR POPULAR” SOUP KITCHEN**

2108 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Chicago, IL 60608

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**“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat”**

**September, 2010 WEBSITE: [stmatthewchicago.org](http://stmatthewchicago.org)  
ST. MATTHEW'S JOURNEY OF FAITH CONTINUES ON**

**POVERTY TERRORIZES OUR FAMILIES**

***“Poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.” Proverbs 6:11***

Dear Friends and Relatives:

The love and the peace of our Lord Jesus be with you and your loved ones!

The Spirit of love continues to move at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. As we nourish the body and soul of the people who come to El Comedor Popular Soup Kitchen and to those who come to the worship services on Sunday, we feel your love through your prayers and support as you continue to provide for St. Matthew mission of faith in Chicago.

I am deeply thankful for your partnership in mission that sustains our commitment to witness Christ and help those in a state of distress because of hunger and illness.

**POVERTY TERRORIZES OUR FAMILIES. “There are now more poor people in America that at any other time in the 52 years records have been kept. More than 15 percent of Americans live below the poverty line. The total rose for the fourth consecutive year.... For a family of four, poverty means scraping by on roughly \$22,000 a year.” Rana Faroohar, Time**

In Chicago's Pilsen community, I know families who are trying to survive on \$10,000. Most of them have a hard time to find a steady job and often do not qualify for Government welfare programs. They live desperate and sad lives without enough food or clothing. St. Matthew is following the footsteps of the Good Shepherd. Jesus provides for those who come to worship or the Soup Kitchen words of comfort and hot meals. Often Maria's miracle bowl of food becomes empty, yet she still manages to provide slices of bread and butter. Poverty is the devil that terrorizes the lives of the poor people who come to St. Matthew. The only hope left is faith in Jesus that He in his mercy will provide as he did 2,000 years ago when he fed five thousand people.

**CHICAGO'S BUILDING DEPARTMENT FINDS ST. MATTHEW IN COMPLIANCE WITH BUILDING REPAIRS.**

According to a Compliance Dismissal Order dated, September 7, 2011, St. Matthew's long ordeal of building repairs has ended. We share the news with joy and gratitude to God and to all who have become part of St. Matthew's building repair team.

About a year ago, St. Matthew received a letter from Chicago's Building Department with a long list of repairs to be made or else St. Matthew would be fined \$10,000 per day. Our members were shaken with the news and intimidated with the large amount of money that the repairs would cost. After the first emotional blow, we mailed a News Release to our friends and media. The Chicago Gazette Magazine made an appeal; Jose Duarte an Engineer responded offering his services free of charge. Bryan Mc Daniel St. Matthew's trustee recruited the services of an outstanding Chicago Attorney Mr. Dimitries Kare who accepted to provide legal services pro bono; St. Paul Lutheran Church at Matteson under the counsel of Rev. Matthew Troester sent a member, David Henrickson to Court hearings, and our partners in mission prayed and supported St. Matthew.

We are deeply thankful to all those who helped St. Matthew's mission of faith to survive and remain a Servant Church of God in Chicago.

**JOB PLACEMENT PROJECT.** There has been an increase of Latino and European Americans asking for job referrals at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Our members feel we should approach different businesses and churches for possible job openings. We need to place unemployed people in cleaning jobs and other manual work. Many unemployed are desperate and are willing to work for low wages. Please if you know of any business entity or person willing to hire call 773-220-0111.

**INDUSTRIAL REFRIGERATOR DELIVERED TO ST. MATTHEW'S SOUP KITCHEN.**

St. Matthew's mission of love and compassion has been blessed with an industrial refrigerator donated by St. Paul Lutheran Church at Matteson. This gift will help to store fresh food for the homeless and unemployed. St. Matthew has built a bridge of love with St. Paul Lutheran. The Spirit of Christ's love dwells amongst us. Thank you to our brethren at St. Paul and God bless you.

I pray the Lord bless our mission partners efforts to assist St. Matthew's witness to the poor.

In Christ,



Pastor Julio Antonio Loza

Please see page 3, Photo News

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September, 2011

**POVERTY TERRORIZES OUR FAMILIES  
PHOTO NEWS**



**Maria Leal the "Miracle worker", center, back, industrial refrigerator donated by St. Paul Lutheran at Matteson**



**Hungry children share a happy meal at St. Matthew**



**The face of a desperate unemployed young man. Lord of Life volunteers.**



**Homeless holds a Bible to feed his soul.**