
Good News From New Road

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, God's Family in Service

December 2018

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Did you know that the Church Year calendar has a different “New Year” than our normal calendar-year? Advent is the New Year of the Church. Advent is the time of anticipation, waiting, and preparing for the comings of Christ—He came (at Christmas), He comes (every day to us in His Word and in the Sacraments), and He is coming (in glory—no one knows the hour or day).

The New Year is always a good time to look ahead, to take stock of our lives, and to make plans to better ourselves for the future. We often make resolutions on January 1—but for how long do they last?! This New Year of the Church is also a good time to look ahead, take stock, and make plans for the future of the Church, and St. Matthew in particular. I hope you will attend the congregational meeting on December 2 (the first Sunday of Advent!), immediately following worship (and stay for dinner and fellowship!) We will elect our 2019 church council, as well as approve the 2019 budget. You will also hear from the Future Directions team, who are preparing a congregational profile of St. Matthew in anticipation of calling a new pastor. I cannot tell you how critical it is for YOU to take part in this process of calling a new pastor! Please listen carefully as the Future Directions team keep you apprised through Sunday morning temple talks, newsletter articles, and especially the Future Directions mini-retreat on Sunday, January 13. They want your input and ideas, and they are committed to staying transparent in keeping you informed about what is happening.

I'd also like to make one more pitch for you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to St. Matthew. Please consider a written pledge—even if you may have missed the “deadline”. I've discovered if I write down my commitment, I am more likely to follow through with it. Will you consider a “tithe”—10% of your income? Or perhaps you might consider simply an increase from last year's giving. Giving, whether of our money, our time, or our talents, is a matter of trust and faith. I trust God has blessed us all, and we will in return find great joy in sharing from our blessings.

Thank you for inviting me to serve as your interim pastor!

Pastor Pat Dietrich

Mid-week Advent Services at St. Matthew

Mid-week Advent services will be held at 12:15 p.m. at St. Matthew in the Sanctuary. This will be a brief worship of prayer and scripture, under the theme “Praying with the Saints in Advent”.

December 5: John of Damascus and Nicholas

December 12: Ambrose and Lucy

December 19: John of the Cross and Katharina von Bora Luther



The St. Matthew Choir will be presenting a special **Christmas Cantata** during the service next Sunday, December 2. There will be orchestration as well as beautiful choral music. Please join us for this special service marking the beginning of Advent.

The Church Council is receiving donations for the **STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT**. If you would like to make a contribution to this gift, please use one of the white pew envelopes and write on it "Staff Gift."



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Council Notes--November 2018

Members present: Sally Engelbrecht, Sharon Gripp, Linda Heyde, Shelly Jasek, Paula Jenson, Bill Jones, Clay Sellers, and Pastor Pat Dietrich

Members absent: Bill Abright, Robert Cotner, and Patti Hueston

Sharon called the meeting to order.

Shelly presented the **TREASURER'S REPORT**: There is \$53,827.85 in the checking account as of October 31, 2018. The current month actual income less expenses is \$1,931.55 and the year-to-date actual income less expenses is \$(4,315.30). Shelly then reviewed the 2018 Statement of Income and Expenses through September and 2019 Proposed Spending Plan. The \$192,501.40 total 2019 proposed amount does not include any Interim Pastor expenses.

Annual Congregational Meeting - The following recommendations were made for voting delegates at the NTNL Synod meeting in April 2019: Steve and Paula Jenson, or Sharon and Lyle Gripp.

Pastors Report: There will be five new members recognized in November.

First Lutheran has been invited to join us for Thanksgiving service with Pastor Austin Nicel co-leading the worship

The facility is in need of a cleanup; there is excess "stuff" that should be cleaned out or put away. A workday will be scheduled.

Property

Pastor's office has been cleaned and painted. Special thanks to John and Carol Linda, Steve and Paula Jenson, Bradley Linda, and Paul Larson.

The Sanctuary lights have been replaced with LED lights.

The Robing Room, across from Shay's office, is in progress.

The sprinklers have been installed in the flower beds.

The exit and entrance lights have been checked and repaired.

A \$2,100 bid for outside lighting in front of the sanctuary was received from Dealer's Electric; the bid will be reviewed by the committee.

Future Directions and Call Committee: The committee consists of Jo Von Rosenberg, Kemper Beard, Hope Cotner, and Bradley Linda.

Computer system for church: Sharon reported that there is a detailed list and the Administrative Assistant's office needs an updated system. Jay Dittmann and Bradley Linda will work on a plan for updating computers with a cost estimate.

Wine and Hymns: The date is December 11 at Classy Glass.

John Heyde, Linda's son, has completed the 2017 non-profit audit of the church's books

NEW BUSINESS

It was noted that communion wine is in short supply. Linda and Sharon will try to get more wine.

A check-out sheet for when members borrow tables or various items from the church will be implemented.

New Council members may need to complete an online course for insurance.

A possible “congregational retreat” was discussed for next year. A facilitator, from outside the church, was recommended

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Engelbrecht, Secretary



On Sunday, November 25, we welcomed the following **new members** to St. Matthew:

Janet Richter
Melinda Coogan
Ron Knobel

Please seek out these new members and welcome them warmly to the fellowship of St. Matthew! We also have many visitors to St. Matthew—please welcome anyone you might not have met to the congregation!

Stephen Ministry Continuing Education will resume in January.



We will again be placing **POINSETTIAS** in the chancel for our Christmas Eve worship service. The cost will be \$10 per poinsettia. An order form has been placed in the weekly bulletin. Orders will be taken through Sunday the 9th of December.

Art as Worship

Thanks to everyone who came to the opening gala of Art as Worship! And special thanks to Beth Pristash, Peggy Tooker, and Roy and Florence Anderson for their special catering skills. We so appreciate the support of the congregation as we continue our Fine Arts Ministry and share the beauty of art with the community. Please enjoy the hallways full of art for the next several weeks and invite your friends to come to church with you to view the special SANCTUARY imagery.



The **2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES** will be available December 9th in the narthex by the name tags. You are asked to pick-up your box of envelopes to save the expense of mailing them to you. Should there be any questions regarding these envelopes, contact Roy Anderson, 254-662-4225. The envelopes are arranged in alphabetical order.

Thank you,
Roy Anderson, Keeper of the envelopes



Bell Choir practice will be on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. December 6, 13, and 20.

Worship Slideshow

During worship through the long Pentecost season, we’ve enjoyed the LANDSCAPES that were submitted by members of St. Matthew. The Advent and Christmas slideshows will not be photography but will instead be something else special for the seasons. The Epiphany slideshow will be themed with photos of LIGHT and/or WINTER. Please see the Friday emails for a live link if you wish to submit photographs to share with the congregation.



Advent Tea

Our sisters in Christ at First Lutheran in Waco will host their annual Advent Tea on Wednesday, **December 5, at 6:30 p.m.** Please plan to support our partners in ministry at their new location: The Episcopal Student Center, 1712 10th Street, Waco (Bagby and 10th). A light supper will be served, then enjoy a lovely program of Advent music.



Wine & Hymns Christmas Songs & Social Hour, Tuesday, December 11 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Klassy Glass. We will be changing it up a little this year with one singing portion beginning at 7:30 p.m. until about 8:15 p.m., giving everyone a little more time



Prayer List

Prayer is a constant comfort, especially to those most in need. We are so glad that prayer is a part of the regular faith-life of St. Matthew, and we're glad you lift up family and friends for prayer, especially through the attendance form prayer request on Sunday morning. The prayer list has gotten very long! For many, prayers have been answered—in a variety of ways. We encourage you to continue to ask for prayer. However, starting December 2, the names will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks. If we know of on-going prayer needs, we will certainly continue to name them—on the list as well in the prayers of the church. Of course, you are always welcome to add someone you know whose need is on-going by using the attendance card prayer request.



Members with Prayer Concerns:

Steve Jensen, Florence Anderson, Pastor Kenneth Moerbe & Paula Moerbe, Jessica Bancale, Joanne Zuch, Agnes Decker, Duane & Colleen Early, JoAnn Krupicka, Debbie Evans, Clydine Arthur, Ron & Stephanie Lambring, Lauren Roller, Imadean Peterson, Linda Stanford, Steve Jenson, Rebecca Haferkamp, Elsie Pietzsch, Melba Hafer, Edna Harris-Howland, Bill & Elnora Schwake, Ron & Sharon Peterson, Eunice & John Linda, Ty Henrichs, Alfred Gstattenbauer, Irene Erickson, Tammy Vickrey, David & Stacey Vanderkinter, Weldon Howell, Stephanie Partin, Cynthia Shetler, Ed Poehl



Those serving in our military:

Landry Erickson, grandson of Irene Erickson
Willie Creamer, brother of Sam Creamer
Claten Bechtol, grandson of Jo von Rosenberg

Those for whom prayer is requested:

Mrs. Bennett (Duane & Colleen Early)
John & Sherry Abendschan & family, Curtis & Patsy Forrester, George & Janet Ahrens (Bill & Diane Jones)
Carol and John Haarmeyer (Kathy & Lee Nordt)
Karen Leary (Jean & Bill Moeller)
Claten Bechtol Family (Jo vonRosenberg)
Rosa Ash, Patti Humphrie, Steve Deramee, Marian Naik (Denise Self)
Amanda Buckner family (Amanda Buckner)
Austin Crider, Elaine Holloway (Bradley Linda)
Linda Selph, Sarah Lou Bracken (Terry & Betty

Bracken)

Joe & Doris Parish (Stephanie Partin)
Haley Farley, Stephanie Thomas, Tristan Serrano (Chad & Maggie Johnson)
Robert Prince, Johanna Luker, Paul Haygood, Rodney Roller, Scott & Kylie Kubicki & family, Joyce Sproles, Clint Tchiavsky, Rick Buckner, Bob Stough (Janet & Terry Roller)
Brian Pommer, Mary Fallon-Pommer (Sharon & Ron Peterson)
Cynthia Riley, Leonard Janke, Janell Janke (Arlene Schwarz)
Trudi Peterson (Pastor Paul & JoAnn Krupicka)
Isaiah Patterson, Jeff Randall (Mary & Bobby Koon)
Cindy Olson, Sharon Roach, Freddie & Andy Anderson (Steve, Paula & Ashley Jenson)
Shawntel Kerr, Julie Grevelle, Jack Odell (Peggy Tooker)
Diane Schubert (Roy & Florence Anderson)
Gary Penney, Jacob Newbern (Kim & Ross Browne)
Ray Henrichs, Calvin Henrichs, Krystal, Addyson & Tyler Henrichs, Ann Simpson (Larry, Helen & Ty Henrichs)
Steve Gill, Vicky Ash, Camille Hiland, Timmy Fields, Steve Kent, Tom Berch, Yanski, Steven Sudbury (Ray & Heather Baker)
Sheri Goldman, Richard Washmon, Sherlon Dyer, Bill & Judy Reynolds, Pete Anderson (Del & Sue Hensel)
Roger Sanders (Clydine Arthur)
Willie Davis (Timothy Pristash)
Pastor Augie Ristow (Stan & Jean Hoffmeyer)
The Abright Family (Bill & Stephanie Abright)
Teri Hafer, Buffy Bayer, Jan Richter, Annette Carruth (Meridith & Clay Sellers)
Martin (Duty) Cruse (Lee & Marilyn Cruse)
Mark Wright (Nona Preble)
The Terrell Family, Sherry Perrin, Glenn Howell, Lisa Brown, Sammie Wise (Marcyl & Weldon Howell)
Mike Howland, Rick Wooley (David & Edna Howland)
Gloria Martin and Family, Skye Stalnaker, Gary Mittendorf, Ardeth Lindell, Jeff Harris & Family, Melanie, Judy Harris (Beth Pristash)
Kristina Staples (Elmo & Rebecca Haferkamp)
Pete Tamez, Debbie, Candice & Brian Vonasak, Jason & Velina Copeland (Bill & Elnora Schwake)
Lucille Culverhouse (The White & Lambring families)
Stephanie Stone (Branden Stone)
Roland Krienke (Teresa & Michael Bancale)
Lillian Miller (Stephanie & Ron Lambring)
Rob & Lynn Aho, Elinor Parker, Belva Meckes,

Wayne Gower, Phyllis & Royal Fraedrich (Karl & Karen Aho)
 Christine Pyle & family, Phyllis Rude (Sarah Rude & Niles Haich)
 Dr. Michael Stones, John Hayley and family (Bill & Cora Gillespie)
 Tyson Selman, Geoff Arms, Elena Grant (Lauren Roller)
 Antonio Rodriguez (Pilar Rodriguez-Larson)
 Patti Hawkins (Monica & Daniel Harper)

Wedding anniversaries

4	Lee & Marilyn Cruse	18 years
7	Donny & Shannon Adams	22 years
10	John C. & Eunice Linda	64 years
10	Lee & Kathy Nordt	40 years
14	Kenneth & Marianna Busch	50 years
16	Terry & Betty Bracken	62 years
17	Karl & Karen Aho	7 years
27	Tommy & Jean Bush	46 years

We express our Christian Sympathy to:

† Russell Kohlscheen on the passing of his daughter Julie

54th Annual Lutefisk Dinner

Time for our annual pilgrimage to the Gap for another fine Lutefisk dinner!! The **54th Annual Lutefisk Dinner** will be on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at Cranfills Gap. Ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. For those of you who would like, we will meet at the church and carpool to there. There will be a signup sheet in the narthex or see Michael Frey.

December birthdays

2	Elmo Haferkamp, Jr.
8	Brooke Evans
8	Karl Matlage
9	John Linda
10	Patti Hueston
11	Diane Jones
11	Teresa Umberger
18	Betty Krienke
21	David Evans
21	Bob Kane
22	JoAnn Krupicka
28	Sophia Martin
29	Bill Jones
29	Carol Linda
31	Abigail Jasek

Baptism Birthdays

1	Hope Cotner
9	Ziggy Sellers
20	Garrison Nordt
23	Larry Henrichs
23	Hannah Schwieger



Wine & Hymns



Wine & Hymns Christmas Songs & Social Hour, Tuesday, December 11 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Klassy Glass. We will be changing it up a little this year with one singing portion beginning at 7:30 p.m. until about 8:15 p.m., giving everyone a little more time for eating and socializing.



Church Clean-Up Day: **Saturday, January 12,** 10:00 a.m. to noon.

We will be cleaning out closets and rooms that have items that are no longer in use.

We ask that someone from each group, including Sunday school groups, Quilters, Calligraphy, etc., be present to designate what items are in use and what can be donated or tossed.

Andrew & Meredith Ronnevik
 921 N. 33rd Street
 Waco TX 76707



December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 NO Sunday school 8:30 Stephen supervision Christmas Cantata 10:45 Annual congregation mtg. Open forum and catered lunch	3 5:30 pm Aggie Moms	4 11:00 Dominos	5 6:30 am Men's breakfast 11:00 am Bible Study 12:15 Advent worship 5:30 pm Mary/Martha Circle 6:30 pm Choir	6 6 pm 12-step group	7 9 am Quilting	8 Calligraphy Guild
9 Edible mangers 10:45 Sunday school	10 10 am Grace Circle 4:30 pm Katherine Luther Circle 6:30 Church Council	11 11:00 Dominos 7-9 pm Wine & Hymns at Klassy Glass	12 11:00 Bible Study 12:15 Advent worship 6:30 pm Choir	13 6 pm 12-step group	14 9 am Quilting	15
16 10:45 Sunday school Sunday school program by Youth	17 5:30 pm Evangelism committee	18 11:00 Dominos 5:30 pm Stephen continuing ed.	19 11:00 Bible Study 12:15 Advent worship 6:30 pm Choir	20 6 pm 12-step group	21 9 am Quilting	22
23 NO Sunday school	24 7 pm Christmas Eve worship	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> <i>The Nativity of Our Lord</i>	26 11:00 Bible Study	27 6 pm 12-step group	28	29
30 NO Sunday school	31					

DECEMBER 2018 MINISTERS OF WORSHIP

	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30
	9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.
Worship Assistant	Sue Hensel	Meridith Sellers	Clay Sellers	Bradley Linda	Marianna Busch
Communion Assistant	Linda Heyde	Bill Krause	Bill Krause Sue Hensel	Bill Krause	Bill Krause
Communion Elements	Kelley Heyde				
Children's Sermon	No children's service	Deanna Toten Beard	Children's Program	Deanna Toten Beard	
Lector	Joanne Zuch	Joanne Zuch	Patricia Gorton	Larry Dietrich	Beth Pristash
Acolyte		Hans Sellers	Hans Sellers		
Clean Communion Ware	C. Van Auken	C. Van Auken	C. Van Auken	C. Van Auken	C. Van Auken
Greeter					
Usher		Kemper Beard			
Usher					
Tellers			Del and Sue Hensel		
Altar Flowers	Alfred Gstattrebauer	Patti & Allen Hueston In honor of her birthday Carol & John Linda in honor of the wedding anniversary of John & Eunice Linda	Marianna & Ken Busch	Betty & Robert Krienke In honor of her birthday	Poinsettias

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

It's time to begin thinking about ordering poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service. The cost of the plant is \$10 each. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for our Christmas worship, please complete the form below, place in a white envelope along with your check or cash payment, and drop it in the offering plate.

The deadline is Sunday, December 9

Please print clearly

NUMBER OF PLANTS PURCHASED _____

Please specify either

IN MEMORY OF _____

or

IN HONOR OF _____

If neither of these is filled out, your purchase will be listed "To the glory of God by {your name}."

Your name _____

Phone number _____



*You may pick up your plant after
the service on Christmas Eve.*