

Good News From New Road

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

March 2018

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



During this Lenten season, our services will focus on the theme **“THY WILL BE DONE.”** “Not as I will, but as you will,” Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. That is our prayer as well as we seek to do God’s will in our lives on a daily basis.

The remainder of our Lenten Schedule:

- † Wednesday, March 7th, the service will center on the theme **“God’s Will and My Identity.”** In humility, Mary dutifully accepted the role God had given her to become the mother of our Savior. That Son would later accept his role, faithfully following the path his Father had in mind for him to save us all.
- † Wednesday, March 14th the worship is focused on the theme **“God’s Will and My Worldview.”** On the road to Damascus, Paul had his worldview turned upside down when God called him to preach the name of the Christ he had been persecuting. We follow God’s will by putting the crucified Christ at the center of our worldview.
- † Wednesday, March 21st, the worship will consider **“God’s Will and My Response.”** Lydia followed the will of God by responding in faith and hospitality when the Gospel message of Christ’s sacrifice was preached to her. We follow the will of God by responding in love and service to one another in return for what Christ has done for us.

These services all meet in the Fellowship Hall. They begin at noon with a lite lunch followed the worship service beginning at 12:20 p.m.

Holy Week Schedule:



† **Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion**, March 25th, worship will be at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. The service will include the procession of Palms (we will gather in the Fellowship Hall and process into the sanctuary), the reading of the Passion Narrative according to St. Mark, and the celebration of Holy Communion. We will also blessing the quilts that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief on April 7th.

- † **Maundy Thursday**, March 29th at 12:00 noon we will gather in the sanctuary for worship. The service will include the celebrations of Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar.
- † **Maundy Thursday**, March 29th at 6:30 p.m., we will gather for our annual Agape Feast in the Fellowship Hall. This service is based on 1st and 2nd century liturgies and will include a common meal of roast lamb and chicken, and the celebration of Holy Communion. (Please watch for the podium in the entrance way for a sign-up sheet for those planning to attend the meal, so that we would have some idea of how much food to prepare.)
- † **Good Friday**, March 30th at 12:00 p.m., our service which will meet in the sanctuary will be one of Scripture and prayer that will end in silence.
- † **Good Friday**, March 30th at 7:00 p.m., we will gather in the sanctuary for the cantata **“Song of the Shadows”** by Joseph Martin.
- † **Easter Sunday**, April 1st, we will offer two worship services, at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. . . . An Easter Breakfast will be served by the LYO from 7:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. (As our LYO is quite small, and these youth and their parents are instrumental parts of our worship services, they are going to need some assistance in helping with the Easter Breakfast. If you are available to help Easter morning with the breakfast, please let Pastor Paul know. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.) . And an Easter Egg Hunt and various activities for the youth in 4th grade and younger will be held at 9:30 a.m.



Council Notes- February 12, 2018

Members present: Bill Abright, Robert Cotner, Sally Engelbrecht, Sharon Gripp, Linda Heyde, Patti Hueston, Shelly Jasek, Paula Jensen, Bill Jones, and Pastor Paul Krupicka

Members absent: Clay Sellers

President Sharon Gripp called the meeting to order. This was followed by a devotion titled "A Gift for God" given by Sally Engelbrecht.

The minutes of the January 8, 2018 Council meeting were approved as presented.

Under the Treasurer's Report it was noted that expenses exceeded income in January by \$2,361.24. The shortfall was attributed in part to low attendance due to bad weather.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- It was reported that letters concerning church membership have been sent to those members who have not worshiped with us in the past two years.
- Council approved the removal from membership, at their request, Arlene Mladenka; Paul Koester; Landon, Laurie, Logan Hengst; and Jeff, Trudi, Carli Conner.
- The 2016 audit report was presented. Thanks to Judy Schwieger for doing the audit! It was noted that someone needed to be selected do the 2017 audit.
- Council approved filing the IRS application for "Filing Information Returns Electronically (FIRE)", which would allow the church to file Form 1099 electronically. Pastor reported that the office filed W2s electronically this year.
- Replacing the church's computer system was discussed. The church's IT person is putting together a proposal for replacing the computer system in the church.
- Council approved Barbara Johnson, as a member of Gifts and Memorials Committee.
- Pastor reported that St. Matthew Lutheran was going to be recognized at the Briarwood Fiesta on Saturday, May 5, 2018, for its support of Briarwood and its ministry. All members of St. Matthew will be asked to consider attending the gala.
- Our continued ministry with Valor Academy was discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism

- Shrove Tuesday Wine and Hymns will be at Klassy Glass on Tuesday, February 13th at 7:00 p.m.
- There will be an ad in *The Senior News* for Holy Week and Easter services.

Property

- Lights for outside pillars have been installed.
- The lighting for the front of the church is being researched.
- The "refreshing" of the front hall bathrooms has begun.
- The remodeling of the nursery and drainage problems in that area were discussed.

Youth

- Sr. High will host Easter Breakfast on April 1st.
- Confirmation Camp is scheduled June 17th-22nd at Briarwood.
- ELCA National Youth Gathering is June 27th-July 1st in Houston – youth will leave on 26th.
- Day Camp is scheduled July 8th-13th. Day Camp kick-off will be a luncheon on July 8th.

Worship

- Wednesday Lenten services (other than Ash Wednesday) will be held in the Fellowship Hall. They will begin at noon with lunch, followed by worship.
- Good Friday Cantata will be "Song of the Shadows".
- Easter worship will be April 1st with worship at 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

- Under the Goals for 2018, there was discussion on the quarterly "God's Work. Our Hands." projects. It was decided that there would be a "Blessing of the Animals" celebration on the first Saturday of October. Council is considering ways to involve other "animal" organizations in this special event at St. Matthew.

NEW BUSINESS

- The need for personnel evaluations was discussed with June or July as a good time to meet with the church personnel.
- DeAnna's report, regarding the progress of connecting with young adults, was tabled until March.
- The possibility of having a group of individuals use the gym early in the mornings for basketball was discussed. All were reminded that Valor

would need to be made aware when these would take place.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Engelbrecht, Secretary



W-ELCA NEWS

Saint Matthew W-ELCA Spring Gathering Retreat & General Meeting was held Saturday, February 24th in the Church Fellowship Hall. The theme for the Gathering was "Nourishing Our Community". Katie Schaeffer from Mission Waco presented a very interesting talk on the organic water garden that grows vegetables for the community and sold in the Jubilee grocery store at 15th and Colcord Ave.

The afternoon speaker was Melody McDermitt of Meals on Wheels who presented a talk on "Nourishing Our Seniors." It was very interesting and also there were some humorous highlights.

The Love Offering will be divided with Mission Waco, Meals on Wheels, SWO and St. Matthew W-ELCA each receiving one-fourth of the offering.

Many thanks to all who helped in any way to make this Gathering an enjoyable day.



DISHES FOR SALE: The Women of St. Matthew Lutheran have four, four-place setting white dishes for sale. Each place setting consists of a dinner plate, salad plate, soup bowl, and a mug. Cost of a place setting is \$20. If you are interested in purchasing a set, please see Peggy Tooker or Rosemary Fielder.

YOUTH NEWS

- ☞ The **2018 ELCA Youth Gathering** will be June 27-July 1 in Houston! We will have two young men and Pastor Paul attending this gathering.
- ☞ **Confirmation Camp** at Briarwood will be Sunday, June 17th through Friday, June 22nd.
- ☞ **Day Camp 2018** – "**This Changes Everything**" – has been set for Monday, July 9th - Friday, July 13th

– 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. This is for all youth entering Kindergarten in September 2018 through those having just completed 4th grade in May 2018. Please mark your calendar and save the dates.

- ☞ **2018 Briarwood Summer Staff Application** now available! This year the Briarwood summer staff application process is online. Check out the details at www.briarwoodretreat.org. The summer camp season for 2018 begins with staff training, starting on Sunday, June 3rd and will go through June 15th. The summer camp sessions begins on June 17th and ends on August 4th. Join us for a great summer with the theme "This Changes Everything!"



LENTEN OFFERING: During the Lenten Season we receive a *special offering*. Instead of simply giving something up

for Lent, we are encouraged to give a special gift of love to those in need. As in years past, we are collecting items for **Personal Care Kits** for Lutheran World Relief. These care kits are distributed in areas where major catastrophes such as hurricanes and earthquakes have occurred. These are gifts of love so that those enduring the catastrophe could stay healthy and clean and preserve their personal dignity. Our goal is to put together 150 kits. The youth will be donating 25-30 of these kits from funds they have received from Thrivent Financial. Would you help share the gift of love this Lenten season?

Items needed for each kit:

- ☞ A light-weight, maximum 52"x27" dark color bath towel.
- ☞ An adult size "soft" toothbrush in its original packaging (Multiple brushes in one package are also acceptable.)
- ☞ Two 4 or 5 oz. bars of soap, any brand, in their original wrapping
- ☞ A sturdy comb
- ☞ A metal fingernail clipper (attached file optional)

The items for each kit can be purchased for \$10. Those wishing to make monetary contributions to purchase the items for the kits may do so by using one of the pew envelopes and marking on it "LWR Kits". **We will be assembling the Care Kits on Sunday, March 25th during the Sunday School hour (9:30 a.m.) and getting them ready to ship to Dallas on Saturday, April 7th.**



Members with Prayer Concerns: Elaine Noack, Elsie Pietzsch, Melba Hafer, Roy Anderson, Edna Dietrich, Sharon Gripp, Edna Harris-Howland, Bill & Elnora Schwake, Agnes Decker, Duane Early, Ron & Sharon Peterson, Glenn von Rosenberg, Steve Jenson, Eunice & John Linda, Stephanie & Ron Lambring, Mary Ann Lippe, Ty Henrichs, Billie Boeche, Alfred Gstattenbauer, Irene Erickson, Lauren Roller, Tammy Vickrey, David & Stacey Vanderkinter, Weldon Howell, Stephanie Partin, Cynthia Shetler, and Ed Poehl.



Those serving in our military:

Willie Creamer, brother of Sam Creamer
Claten Bechtol, grandson of Glenn & Jo von Rosenberg
Niall Kelly, grandson of Roy & Florence Anderson.
Landry Erickson, grandson of Irene Erickson

Those for whom prayer is requested:

Vicki Smith, Joe Cook (*John & Carol Linda*)
Mary Fallon-Pommer (*Sharon Peterson*)
Pat Cockerham, Gary Penney, Coby Meinzer, Karyn Robbins (*Kim & Ross Browne*)
Heather Abright, Harlan Abright (*Bill & Stephanie Abright*)
Teri Hafer
John Hutchings, Buffy Bayer, Jan Richter, Annette Carruth, (*Meridith & Clay Sellers*)
Robert Prince, Rodney Roller, Scott & Kylie Kubicki & family, Sandra Jameson, Megan Nicole, Joyce Sproles, Clint Tchiavsky, Rick Buckner, Hitchcock Family, Bob Stough (*Janet & Terry Roller*)
Adora Joy (*Deanna & Kemper Beard*)
Mark Wright (*Nona Preble*)
Camille Hiland, Timmy Fields, Steve Kent, Tom Berch, Yanski, Karyn Robins, Colby Meinzer, Steven Sudbury (*Ray & Heather Baker*)
Martin (Duty) Cruse (*Lee & Marilyn Cruse*)
Donna Hahn (*Doris Akard*)
Linda Tubbs (*Denise Masters*)
Leonard Janke, Janell Janke (*Arlene Schwarz*)
Sherry Perrin, Glenn Howell, Lisa Brown, Sammie Wise (*Marcyl & Weldon Howell*)
Karen Chastain, Eddie Kunze (*Franco Rogers*)
MerLenna Mehaffey, Carl Potter, Jack Odell (*Peggy Tooker*)
Beth Gray (*Henry Beard*)
Curtis & Patsy Forrester, George & Janet Ahrens (*Bill & Diane Jones*)
Mike Howland, Rick Wooley (*David & Edna Howland*)

Butch Barrington (*Dana Bush*)
Sherlon Dyer, Bill & Judy Reynolds, Pete Anderson (*Del & Sue Hensel*)
Gary Mittendorf, Ardeth Lindell, Jeff Harris & Family, Melanie, Judy Harris (*Beth Pristash*)
Dana Bush (*Tammy Bush*)
Joyce Cunningham, Wendell Davis (*Jean & Bill Moeller*)
Kristina Staples (*Elmo & Rebecca Haferkamp*)
Christina Whiteside, Mike Riley, Al Canales (*Denise Self*)
Pete Tamez, Debbie, Candice & Brian Vonasak, Conrad Engelholm, Jason and Velina Copeland (*Bill & Elnora Schwake*)
Lucille Culverhouse (*The White and Lambring families*)
Roger Sanders, Rick Arthur (*Clydine Arthur*)
Stephanie Stone (*Branden Stone*)
Patrick Posey (*Linda Heyde*)
Warmaus & Janette Bailey, Sharon Roach, Al Castilleja, Karen Ploetz, Sharen Carley, Freddie & Andy Anderson (*Steve, Paula & Ashley Jenson*)
Roland Krienke (*Teresa & Michael Bancale*)
Lillian Miller (*Stephanie & Ron Lambring*)
Rob & Lynn Aho, Elinor Parker, Stevie Spalda, Belva Meckes, Wayne Gower, Phyllis & Royal Fraedrich (*Karl & Karen Aho*)
Coby Meinzer, Karyn Robbins (*Kim & Ross Browne*)
Calvin Henrichs, Krystal, Addyson & Tyler Henrichs, Josh & Chandal Chenier, Ann Simpson (*Larry, Helen & Ty Henrichs*)
Christine Pyle & family, Phyllis Rude (*Sarah Rude & Niles Haich*)
Dana Massey (*Linda Stanford*)
Logan Lopez, Andre Young, Dorian Young, Roxi Joiner (*Mary & Bobby Koon*)
Dr. Michael Stones (*Bill & Cora Gillespie*)
Rev. Al Johannes (*Pat Gorton*)
Ella Niekamp (*Allen & Patti Hueston*)
Geoff Arms, Elena Grant (*Lauren Roller*)
Antonio Rodriguez (*Pilar Rodriguez-Larson*)
Patti Hawkins (*Monica & Daniel Harper*)

We express our Christian Sympathy to:

- † Beth and Timothy Pristash at the death of their father, John Pristash.
- † The family of Ben Boettcher (*James Stokes*)
- † Pastor Pat & Larry Dietrich, Bethany & Brian at the death of Pastor Pat's father, Kenneth Stillson.
- † The family of April Pickard (*Del & Sue Hensel*)
- † The family of Marilyn Taylor (*Pastor Paul & JoAnn Krupicka*)

CONGRATULATIONS to . . .

. . . Monica & Daniel Harper at the birth of their daughter, Abigail Laurel. Abigail was born on Friday, January 26th. She weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. at birth and was 19.5 inches long. Welcoming Abigail home is her big sister, Natalie.

. . . Alfredo & Gabriela Colman at the birth of their son, Esteban Samuel Colman on Thursday, Feb 22nd.

CONGRATULATIONS to Meridith Sellers who was named the Educator Credit Union Student Choice Teacher of the Month for February. Meridith teaches German at Reicher Catholic High School.



Dear Church Family,

We are so thankful to each of you for your many prayers, phone calls, cards, and visits and also for the delicious food and flowers. Thank you, Pastor Paul, for bringing us Holy Communion. May God bless each of you for your love, caring, and compassion. It's been a long journey, but we are doing therapy at home and doing well.

God's blessings to you all.

With much thankfulness,
Bill & Elnora Schwake



Memorial Fund Gifts
October 1--December 31, 2017

In Memory of Tony Cureton**Given by:**

Terry & Betty Bracken
Bob & Dorene Swenson

In Memory of Leta Scherer**Given by:**

Terry & Betty Bracken

In Memory of Arthur R. Moeller**Given by:**

Terry & Betty Bracken

In Memory of Brenda Crye**Given by:**

Terry & Betty Bracken
Elsie Pietzsch

In Memory of Doris Minnix**Given by:**

Elsie Pietzsch
Joyce Symank
Peggy Tooker
William & Cora Gillespie
Del & Sue Hensel

In Memory of Clara Poehl**Given by:**

Bill & Mary Krause
Bill & Jean Moeller
Arlene Schwarz
Glenn & Jo von Rosenberg
Gladys Kocurek & Family
Peggy Tooker
Sandra Broussard
Fred & Camille Johnson
James Stokes
Del & Sue Hensel
Michelle March Wilson, Margie March,
Brad March & Monice March
Elmo & Rebecca Haferkamp

Thank you to

- ♥ Everyone who contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring! We collected 383 lbs. of non-perishable food items and \$652.05 in monetary donations. This all was given to Caritas of Waco.
- ♥ Everyone who brought food for the February Brunch, and those who helped serve and clean-up!
- ♥ Helen Henrichs for providing the music for our Wednesday noon Lenten services.
- ♥ Roy & Florence Anderson for assisting with the Lenten lunches, and to those who bring desserts.
- ♥ Jay Dittmann for his continued work improving our sound and video system in the sanctuary

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. – OPPORTUNITIES TO BE CHRIST'S FAMILY IN SERVICE . . .

- ☞ **LWR Personal Care Kits** – We are putting together Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief during the Lenten season. Can we meet or beat our goal of 150? Items needed for each kit: 1 light-weight, dark color 52" x 27" bath towel; 2 bars of

soap; an adult “soft” toothbrush; 1 sturdy comb; and 1 metal nail clipper (file optional).

☞ **BLAST OFF FOR BOOKS!** The *2018 ELCA Youth Gathering* will be collecting books for students in Pre-K through 6th grade for its in kind offering at the gathering. The Houston ISD estimates that 74% of the students in the district come from families who struggle to provide books for their children. This means the students begin each school year at a disadvantage. By putting books in the hands of Houston’s economically disadvantaged students, we can help change lives. The Houston ISD has identified a very specific list of books they would like brought to the gathering. Between now and May 15th, our youth will be collecting donations toward the purchase of these books. If you would like to make a contribution toward **Blast Off for Books**, please use one of the white pew envelopes and mark on it “books.” If you would like to donate a book or two, please see Pastor Paul for a listing of books being requested.

☞ **Mosaic in Waco** has a Wish List of items that would help them with their ministry. These items are needed throughout the year. Some of the items needed: hygiene items, utility room supplies, creative craft kits, textured books, tranquil/visual DVDs, full size sheet sets and comforters, queen-size sheets sets and comforters, pillows, towels, kitchen pots, pans, dishes, silverware, dish towels, staple food items such as canned goods, baking mixes, flour/sugar, wooden puzzles, large size Lego blocks, board games, and activity books. If you would like to donate any of these items, please place them in the wooden box in the Entrance Way. Please make sure that you have labeled them for “*Mosaic*.”

WORSHIP SLIDESHOW PHOTOS

We hope to make the worship slideshows a collaborative project this year, with the following seasonal themes in mind:

Easter: Spring
April 1 - May 20

Time after Pentecost: Landscapes
May 21 - Nov 28

We have created a Google form to make it easy to submit your photos

(<https://goo.gl/forms/DU1JXWDxRw8373Wn1>)

St. Matthew Slideshow Submissions

Please upload any photos you would like to submit for consideration, keeping in mind the following guidelines:

- The photos must be your own; please do not simply download photos from the internet. We want to honor copyright laws and creative property rights.
- The form limits you to sending 10 photos at a time, but you may submit multiple forms if you have more photos.
- The photos should be landscape orientation, not portrait (that is, they should be horizontal, not vertical). We will likely need to crop most photos to fit the dimensions of the screens.
- The photos should be high-enough resolution to be projected on the large screen. If, for instance, it’s a photo from your phone, send it as actual size, not a smaller, compressed version. Send original files, not ones that have been uploaded to social media sites (Facebook, Instagram) and then saved from there, as those have been compressed for the internet.
- Photos should be a standard graphic file type (jpg, pdf, png, or gif).
- Given our desire to create slideshows of a meditative nature, we ask that you refrain from submitting photos with people in them. We feel that having faces that we may or may not recognize in photos would detract from the nature of the slideshow.

We have established themes that we hope are broad enough for interpretation. We cannot guarantee that we will use all photos that are submitted, but we will attempt to use as many as possible. The season after Pentecost is very long, so we anticipate adding and changing that slideshow periodically as more submissions are added. You can add photos anytime for any of the seasons, and we will use them as best we can.

Thank you for your participation in this collaborative element of worship. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeanne Dittmann (lettersalot@gmail.com) or Pilar Rodriguez (pilarr_v@msn.com).

March Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Baptisms

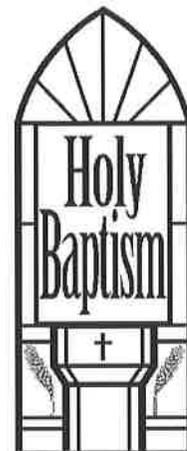
3/1 Geneva Massingill
 3/1 Violet Wiechering
 3/4 Teresa Hengst
 3/6 Carolyn Van Auken
 3/8 Adele Strand
 3/9 Jullian Duncan
 3/9 Hans Sellers
 3/12 Rachel Cotner
 3/12 Natalie Harper
 3/13 Christopher Cocek
 3/14 Norma Swanson
 3/14 Eva Woods
 3/15 Rosemary Fielder
 3/15 Orlan Scott
 3/15 David Vanderkinter
 3/16 Kam Woods
 3/17 Bethany Baker
 3/18 Michelle Cocek
 3/19 Rita Bruer
 3/20 Henry Lippe
 3/22 Jeff Landon
 3/22 Donna Zimmerman
 3/25 Cheri Beuerlein
 3/25 Robert Cotner
 3/26 Beth Pristash
 3/26 Kyra White
 3/27 Shannon Adams
 3/28 Del Hensel
 3/29 Kenneth Busch
 3/29 Helen Henrichs



3/5 Bill & Diane Jones (52nd)
 3/6 Lyle & Sharon Gripp (2nd)
 3/31 William & Cora Gillespie (40th)

Anniversaries of Baptism

3/1 Karen Aho
 3/1 Sarah Rude
 3/3 Paul Dittmann
 3/4 Ken Cocek
 3/4 Wanda Kilstrom
 3/8 Ron Peterson
 3/9 Betty Krienke
 3/11 Mason Gill
 3/11 Geneva Massingill
 3/16 Rickey Henry
 3/19 Ryan Taylor
 3/22 Abigail Jasek
 3/23 Tommy Bush
 3/26 Cameron Vickrey
 3/29 David Vanderkinter
 3/29 Randall Woods
 3/31 Mary Ann Lippe



You are invited to a *Piano Recital* given by Zerek Dodson (our organist/pianist at St. Matthew Lutheran) on Wednesday, March 28th at 5:30pm at Roxy Grove Hall (part of Waco Hall complex) on the Baylor campus.

INVITATIONS

You are invited to be a part of the *Mosaic Partners in Possibilities* luncheon and fundraiser. This luncheon will be held in the Baylor Ballroom at Baylor's McLane Stadium on Tuesday, April 3rd from 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. This is a free luncheon. One of the main goals of the gathering is to raise awareness about Mosaic of Waco and its mission and ministry. As this is also a fundraiser, those in attendance will be ask to make a donation to the ongoing work of Mosaic in Waco but, there is no requirement that anyone give at the event. If you would like to learn more about Mosaic, and become a partner in this wonderful ministry, please plan to attend the *Mosaic Partners in Possibilities*. If you would like to attend, let Pastor Paul know so that reservations could be made.



Caritas invites you to the *Caritas Feast of Caring* Soup Cook-off in the Brazos Room at the Waco Convention Center on Tuesday, April 3rd from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Briarwood Retreat Center invites you to the first ever *Briarwood Cinco de Mayo Fiesta* on Saturday, May 5th. This will be a wonderful evening of fun and entertainment. Also, *St. Matthew Lutheran will be recognized and honored* for its continued and generous support of Briarwood and it's ministry. The Fiesta will be held at the Texas Star Conference Centre in Euless. It will begin with a silent auction at 5:30 and dinner with entertainment will follow. This will be a fun evening you won't want to miss!

Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

Money Changers in the Temple

This phrase, taken from the act of our Lord recorded in Matthew 21:12, is usually taken to describe something deplorable, the sordid, the profaning of religion by commercialism. But in the highest sense, each Christian can be a "money changer." When a person brings money to be used in furthering the purposes of Christ, money becomes changed into life. Money can be changed into health and life in a hospital down the street or across the sea; it can be changed into a college where a young person finds what is needed for real living. It is changed into food as the church meets physical need in all parts of the earth. By its right use, money is the alchemy by which human life and energy are transported from one place to another.

By our money, we can talk in many languages to proclaim the Gospel; by our money, we can heal the sick, give sight to the blind, care for the fatherless, teach the ignorant and feed the hungry. Hence it becomes the "open sesame" to a glorious ministry.

You ... yes, you ... can be a money changer in the temple!

G. W. Mattace



Serve Where You Are

A policeman in Birmingham, England on becoming a Christian was so greatly troubled by the sights and sounds of sin among which he worked that for a long time he prayed, "Lord, take me out of the police service. Give me some other work."

No answer came and no other work was opened to him. At last he said to his wife: "I think we have been making a great mistake. We have been praying that I may be taken out of the force, and I begin to think that he

has put me there to work. Now I am going to pray that he will help me to serve where I am."

That was the beginning of a life of marvelous usefulness. His influence over the men was so great that he was promoted to be the head of the detectives. He was instrumental in the salvation of many criminals. The place where God has put you is the place where you do the best service for him.

M. Lunn

Thoughts to Ponder:

"If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free."

P. J. O'Rourke

"No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session."

Mark Twain

"I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."

Winston Churchill

Carrying Our Own Loads

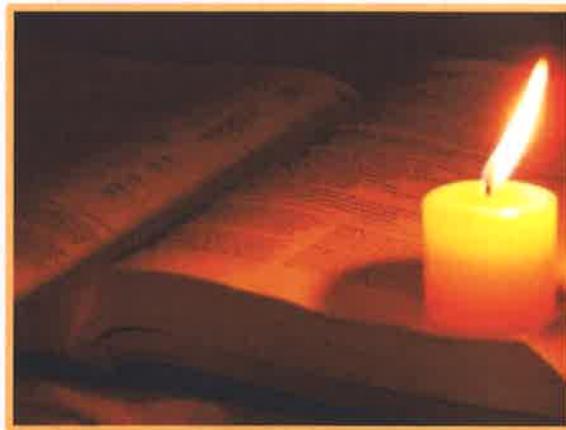
We all start at the same place: *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23), and we are all rescued from this position in the same way: *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). God sees us all the same – sinners saved by his grace. Since we are all equal in his sight, there is no need to measure ourselves by our neighbors. The Apostle Paul, in our text above, declares this a fruitless exercise.

What is helpful, though, is to test our own actions. Am I using the gifts and talents God has given me in a way that brings him honor and that benefits the Body of Christ? Am I spending time in reading his Word and in prayer to him? Am I joining in Christian fellowship as the Word of God is preached and the Sacraments are administered? Am I encouraging others to do good deeds? Am I giving sacrificially and humbly? How am I building up my pastor(s) so he can effectively preach the Word and care for the flock in his care?

As we examine our actions, we must also examine our motives. Do I do "good things" because I'm a prominent member of the congregation and it's expected of me? Do I labor in the church so I'll be noticed and commended? Do I serve others and give of my time in order to earn God's favor? God forbid that those should be our motives! Rather, we say with Paul, *"Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again"* (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

Finding the Good Life

Most people believe that money brings happiness, so they always want more of it. But money does not bring happiness. Money and the things that money can buy do not produce the good life. The good life is taking *"hold of the life that is truly life"* (1 Timothy 6:19) and in using what God has given us to build his kingdom. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we will hold the things of this world loosely and focus on things that are eternal.



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

MARCH 2018 MINISTERS OF WORSHIP

	March 4		March 11		March 18		March 25	
	9:30 a.m.	8:15 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	8:15 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	8:15 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	
Worship Assistant	Kenneth Busch	Phil Van Auken	Meridith Sellers	Shelly Jasek	Marianna Busch	Phil Van Auken	Clay Sellers	
Communion Assistant	Rosemary Fielder Marcy Howell	Bill Krause	Clay Sellers Sue Hensel	Bill Krause	Paul Larson Rosemary Fielder	Bill Krause	Linda Heyde Paul Larson	
Communion Elements	Roy & Florence Anderson	Barbara Johnson Sally Engelbrecht	Elmo & Rebecca Haferkamp	Phil & Carolyn Van Auken	Wanda Kilstrom Sue Hensel	John & Shelly Jasek	Meridith & Ziggy Sellers	
Children's Sermon	Pastor Paul	-----	Pastor Paul	-----	DeAnna Toten Beard	-----	Meridith Sellers	
Lector	Pat Gorton	Joanne Zuch	Clay Sellers	Joanne Zuch	Terry Roller	Joanne Zuch	TBA	
Acolyte	TBA	TBA	Hans Sellers	TBA	TBA	TBA	Hans Sellers	
Clean Communionware	Carolyn Van Auken	Carolyn Van Auken	TBA	Carolyn Van Auken	Wanda Kilstrom	Carolyn Van Auken	Diane Jones	
Greeters	Roy & Florence Anderson	Barbara Johnson Sally Engelbrecht	Elmo & Rebecca Haferkamp	Phil & Carolyn Van Auken	Wanda Kilstrom Sue Hensel	LuDean & Rita Bruer	Maggie Lambring & Chad Arthur	
Usher	Del Hensel	TBA	Del Hensel	TBA	Del Hensel	TBA	Bill Jones	
Usher	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Diane Jones	
Tellers	Bill Moeller & Terry Bracken							
Flowers	Bill & Diane Jones	James Stokes	Ray & Heather Baker	John & Shelly Jasek				

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 8:30am Stephen Minister Supervision 9:30am Worship	5 5:30pm Aggie Moms	6 11:00am Dominos 5:30pm Mary Martha Circle	7 6:30am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 12:00pm Lenten Lunch & Worship 6:30 Choir	1 6:00 pm Bell Choir	2 9:00am Quilting	3
11 8:15am Worship 9:30am Adult Sunday School (No Youth Sunday School) 10:45am Worship	12 10:00am Grace Circle 4:30pm Katherine Luther Circle 7:00pm Church Council	13 11:00am Domino	14 12:00pm Lenten Lunch & Worship 6:30pm Choir	15 6:00p.m. Bell Choir	16 9:00am Quilting	17
18 8:15am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	19 5:30pm Evangelism Committee	20 11:00am Dominos 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed	21 12:00pm Lenten Lunch & Worship	22 6:00pm Bell Choir	23 9:00am Quilting	24
25 <i>Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday</i> 8:15am Worship 9:30am Sunday School/Pack LWR Kits 10:45am Worship	26 5:30pm W-ELCA Bible Study Leaders	27 11:00am Dominos	28 5:00pm Set-up for Agape Feast 6:30pm Choir	29 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 12:00pm Worship 6:30pm Agape Feast	30 <i>Good Friday</i> 12:00pm Worship 7:00pm Cantata	31 10:00am LYO Easter Set-up 10:00am Set-up for Easter Egg Hunt

St Matthew Lutheran Church
800 N New Road
Waco, TX 76710

Address Correction Requested

Easter morning, we will again fill the chancel with **EASTER LILIES**. We will be taking orders for lilies (\$11 each) through Sunday, March 18th. If you would like to purchase a lily to place in the chancel, please complete one of the order forms that are on the back of the weekly bulletin – or contact the church office. Lilies may be taken home after the 10:45 service on Easter morning. *(If you will not be taking your lily home, would you please note that on your order form. We will then make sure it is taken to one of our shut-ins or a local care facility.)*

Your help is needed to make our **EASTER EGG HUNT** on Easter Morning a success. We are in need of *individually wrapped candy* to put in our Easter Eggs. We have plenty of Easter Eggs, we just need the candy to go in them. Please place candy donations on the table by the piano in the Fellowship Hall. *(The eggs will be filled and hidden on Saturday, March 31st at 10:00 a.m. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated!)*

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins Sunday, March 11th. Turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

Want to CONTACT US at St. Matthew Lutheran:

Telephone #: 254-772-9349

Fax #: 254-772-4328

Website: www.saintmatthewwaco.org

Email:

Church Office: smlcoffice@saintmatthewwaco.org

Pastor Paul: pkrupicka@saintmatthewwaco.org

Friend us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheran

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

In the event of **an emergency**, call the telephone number above and follow the instructions for “*if this is an emergency*” to reach Pastor Paul.