

**Good News  
From New Road  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, God's Family in Service**

**March 2020**

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



**Beyond People Watching**

One of my fondest childhood memories I have with my Nana is going to Hardees for apple cinnamon raisin biscuits every Wednesday before I was old enough to be in school. After we finished our breakfast, seated at the high top table by the window, we would drive across the parking lot to the Lebanon Valley Mall, and have a seat by the indoor fountain.

We would sit there, for what felt like forever, before we got up and walked around. When I asked what we were doing she would say, "just watching the people." I credit my Nana to making me a people watcher; it can be somewhat of a hobby. One sees all sorts of things: the frantic flyer trying to make sure she gets on the next flight, the child melt-down after losing the battle with his ice cream cone at the baseball game, or the embrace of family and friends as they spot one another coming through the door at St. Matthew.

And what I have learned from watching people over the years is the reality of human nature. That humanity is both great, and less than great. I see humanity at its best when park goers rally around the woman who fell and wait with her for help to arrive. But I have also witnessed the less great side, like the person who left his dog excrement in the middle of the sidewalk.

People watching is the easy thing to do, it requires very little effort. But as Christians living in the world, whose primary focus other than loving God, is loving our neighbor, we can no longer just sit in our observation towers. Our role is to go beyond people watching. My Nana taught me the first part, to see and notice people, but the second step is to do something about the things we see.

After God called Jonah, he was more than content to sit under a plant and let the people destroy themselves. But God made it clear that Jonah was to go and help the people of Nineveh. Or think about Zacchaeus up in the tree. He would have been satisfied to stay in that tree to see Jesus among the crowd, but Jesus calls him down, and helps him understand how to act in the community – advocating for those that he previously ignored.

It takes more effort to go beyond the watch tower role. It takes energy to put ourselves out there and make ourselves vulnerable for the sake of the other. To not only call out poor behavior, but to try and change it. So this day, and every day, we pray for the courage to speak the truth in love, and go beyond the people watching.



**Lent Learning Series**

March 4<sup>th</sup> – Learning and Reflection “What is Gratitude” noon and 5:45 p.m.

March 11<sup>th</sup> – Learning and Reflection “Feeling Grateful” noon and 5:45 p.m.

March 18<sup>th</sup> - Learning and Reflection “Cultivating Awareness” noon and 5:45 p.m.

March 25<sup>th</sup> – Learning and Reflection “In this Together” noon and 5:45 p.m.

April 1<sup>st</sup> – Learning and Reflection “Living Gratefully” noon and 5:45 p.m.



**Holy Week Journey at St. Matthew**

April 5<sup>th</sup> – Palm/Passion Sunday

April 9<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday noon worship (spoken) and Dinner Church at 6:30 p.m.

April 10<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday noon worship (spoken) and 7:00 p.m. worship with Cantata

April 12<sup>th</sup>—Easter morning breakfast beginning 8:15 a.m.

April 12<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays in Lent: Grant us Gratefulness

**Beginning on March 4<sup>th</sup>** (the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday), and continuing until holy week, there will be two opportunities to **meet on Wednesdays at noon and 5:45 p.m.** for a time of spiritual formation and reflection. The sessions will not go beyond 45 minutes and if you are coming to or from work feel free to bring a brown bag lunch/dinner for yourself, so that you may head to your next event spiritually and physically fed.

Pastor Kelsey will lead learning and reflection on the book "Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks" by Diana Butler Bass. You do not need to read the book each week to participate in learning and reflection. "Being thankful is the very essence of what it means to be alive and to know that life abundantly." – from *Grateful*

**Sunday Learning Hour (Sunday School)**  
**10:45—11:30 a.m. (after church)**

**Adult Class:** Join us for Coffee and Conversation with Pastor Kelsey during our Sunday Learning Hour (10:45 – 11:30). Our conversation will focus on a different book of the Bible in 45 minutes or less! We will explore key elements of our faith and how that relates to our everyday lives. Classes are held in the Fellowship Hall.

**High School Class:** The High School Class will be taught by Jeremy Wallace for all high school students. Classes are held in the high school room.

**Junior High Class:** The Junior High Class will be taught by Michael Frey for all sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Classes are held in the junior high classroom.

**Sunday Play:** The Sunday Play Class will be taught by DeAnna Beard and Jeanne Dittmann for all first, second, third, fourth, and fifth grades. Classes will be taught in the back portion of the Fellowship Hall.

**Nursery Class:** The Nursery Class will be taught by Linda Stanford for all three, four and five year olds. Classes will be taught in the Nursery Class Room.

*Come Join Us!*



**Council Minute Highlights**  
**February 13, 2020**

Members present: Stephanie Abright, Sally Engelbrecht, Sharon Gripp, Shelly Jasek, Paula Jenson, Pastor Kelsey, Kirk Krause, Paul Larson, Linda Stanford, Cynthia Tingle, and Jeremy Wallace

- The amount in the checking account, after deducting dedicated accounts, is \$71,490.67.
- God's Work. Our Hands. Designated contributions for Ty Croford total \$1,220.00.
- The Council Retreat is at the church on Sunday, February 16. Pastor Totzke, from the Synod office, will lead portions of the meeting.
- Jeremy said various age groups may attend Briarwood's camp. The cost is approximately \$535 per camper. Jeremy will be working at Briarwood and cannot be a sponsor, but sponsors are not required. It was agreed to subsidize the cost to some

extent for campers from St. Matthew. A notice will be placed in the newsletter.

- Stephanie and Linda will work with the Scholarship Committee.
- The Souper Bowl collection did not happen in January so another giving opportunity will be scheduled during the summer months when pantry shelves are low. More information will follow.
- A clean-up day, for inside and outside the church, has been scheduled on March 21, 2020.
- An Easter breakfast will be available on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally Engelbrecht, Secretary

*This format is to provide highlights of the Council Meeting. A copy of the minutes will be available from the church office no later than the end of each month.*



### W-ELCA News

The Women of St. Matthew ELCA (W-ELCA) had a wonderful speaker at the February 15<sup>th</sup> first general meeting for 2020. Megan Henderson from City Center Waco gave an informative and in-depth presentation regarding what is happening in downtown Waco, on Elm Street, on Franklin Avenue, and the Silos. Some of the development will be continuing for several years.

There was plenty of food. No shortage in the fellowship and fun either. Everyone enjoyed the morning. We turned the jars into personal thank offering collection containers. Kim Browne demonstrated how to turn a jar into a beautiful container using scraps of material, ribbon and yarn.

Save the date for the second W-ELCA general meeting to be held on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. A light lunch of sandwiches, chips and drinks will be served, and we will have pies for dessert. Our program will be a presentation by Jill Barrow, Executive Director of Historic Waco.

In the meantime, we continue to work on some fun and educational events for W-ELCA.



Saturday, April 4, 2020

The **Heart of Texas (HOT) Conference Gathering** will be

**April 4** at St. Matthew ELCA co-hosted by W-ELCA units from St. Matthew and First Lutheran churches. Wanda Kilstrom is the coordinator for this event. Registration forms are available.

Jean Moeller, W-ELCA President



### Bible Study

**Bible study** led by Pastor Kelsey on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. will resume after Easter.



Finance Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m. Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>



### Clean up day

Clean up day at St. Matthew: With Easter in sight, we need to tidy up the church and the surrounding area, so the Property Committee is planning an **all-church volunteer day at 9:00 a.m. on March 21** to pick up and get rid of our trash, weather permitting. **Outside**, we will pick up any and all trash between Sanger and New Road. **Inside**, we will try to eliminate any old technology, unwanted furniture, or other discarded or unneeded items to free up and clean our space. **Sign-up sheets will be available beginning March 1.** Doughnuts, coffee, and soda will be provided. **As always many hands make light work**, so we hope to be done before lunch.

### Men's Breakfast



Men's breakfast is held the **first Wednesday** of each month at **6:30 a.m.** All men are invited to come, have breakfast and enjoy Christian fellowship. We will try to be finished by 7:30 a.m., but feel free to leave if you need to get to work. If you have any questions, please see Del Hensel.



### A "Prayer Angel" Request

A "Prayer Angel" Request Many of you are aware of what the "Prayer Angels" do. For those who don't, we pray for our members who are going through illness, accidents, long term situations, etc. We contact each one and visit via phone or note. As "Angels" we pray for these individuals and check up on their progress. Some are "shut-ins" who are not able to attend Church. But by calling, notes sent, they are not forgotten members. We would appreciate having at least 2-3 more "Angels" to help us with this program of caring. If you have an interest in this type of ministry, please contact Florence Anderson 254-662-4225, or please let Pastor Kelsey know.

### Lutheran World Relief Item Collection

Beginning Sunday, February 9th through Sunday March 1st; Lutheran World Relief items of large dark colored towels and large bars of soap will be accepted for the Personal Kits. Please place the

towels and soap in the wooden box for Lutheran World Relief items in the hallway.



### Church Camp for All Ages

**Camp Briarwood** provides church camp opportunities for all ages and we are so lucky they are part of our synod. Children and youth grades 1-12 are invited to spend a week in nature experiencing all that camp has to offer. **Activities include: swimming, fishing, nature hikes, rock wall, zipline, camp fires, bible studies and more!** Briarwood also offers a two-week leadership program for high school students. St. Matthew encourages any and all interested youth to attend and is willing to help subsidize the cost. Additional assistance is available and can be found on their website which is [briarwoodretreat.org](http://briarwoodretreat.org). If you are interested or have questions please ask Jeremy Wallace at [Jeremy.wallace532@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeremy.wallace532@yahoo.com) or by phone at (254) 640-0858.

### Online Calendar Updates

As we work to keep our **online calendar** up to date, please contact Sally Engelbrecht, [sengel1918@yahoo.com](mailto:sengel1918@yahoo.com), for any additions or corrections.



### Members with Prayer Concerns:

Ron Knobel, Alfred Gstattenbauer, Imadene Peterson, Steve Jenson, Agnes Decker, Clydine Arthur, Ron & Stephanie Lambring, Lauren Roller, Elsie Pietzsch, Bill & Elnora Schwake, Ron Peterson, Eunice & John Linda, Ty Henrichs, Tammy Vickrey, Stephanie Partin, Irene Erickson, Ken Busch, Melba Hafer, Henry & Mary Ann Lippe, Sue Hensel.



### 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:

Able Torres, Amanda Burke (Beth Pristash)  
Carlos Remedios, Rodney Roller, James Hurst  
(Terry Roller)

Roger Sanders (Clydine Arthur)  
Jimmy Moore, Laura Burney (Ross & Kim Browne)  
Philip Reyna (Mary Koon)  
Melva Williamson (Donna & Bobby Zimmerman)  
Larry Warenke (Jean & Bill Moeller)  
Tony Hull (Debbie Evans)  
Dale Nutt Family, Dennis Donoho (Mary Herring)  
Renee Underwood (Donna Zimmerman)  
Jerry Murphy (Peggy Tooker)  
Dennis Donoho (Mary Herring)  
Ty Croford (Linda Stanford)  
Don Hancock, Angela Crow Jones (Meridith Sellers)  
Teri Vickrey, LeeAna Bond (Cameron Vickrey)  
Brenda Light (Terry Roller)  
Howard & Cindy Nesmith (Wanda Kilstrom)  
Vivian Mill (Cora Gellespie)  
Grace Lutheran (Carrollton, Tx)  
Santa Maria Lutheran (Irving, Tx)  
Brazos Meadows Baptist Church (Waco)  
Primera Iglesia Bautista (Waco)

Thank you for keeping members of the congregation, and their friends and family in your prayers. We know that situations change, and as we work to ensure best care of those in need of prayer, we will keep people on the list for a month at a time. Please contact the church office with any additions or removals.

### 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ART AS WORSHIP EXHIBIT

In the beginning God created (Genesis 1:1). God is creator, God still creates today, and He calls us to be creative. We honor our creative God with our artistic creations.

To celebrate our tenth anniversary, we invite artists to submit work that contemplates the many meanings and resonances of **any** of our previous themes in Scripture, in Christian thought, and in our society today. Perhaps there's a theme that you would like to revisit. Maybe you missed a year and know just what you would have done (and here's your chance). Or maybe you want to incorporate multiple themes in your artwork to help us celebrate 10 years of making art together.

We have always intended for our themes be a guide or encouragement rather than a restriction for an artistic response. This year, we hope that our themes broaden your creative choices and allow for us all to remember our first ten years of Art as Worship. We are planning some special surprises in the weeks preceding this year's exhibit, so stay tuned for that, as well.

Please visit [www.fineartsministry.blogspot.com](http://www.fineartsministry.blogspot.com) for more information or talk to Jeanne Dittmann or DeAnna Toten Beard. The opening gala will be held on Saturday, November 21 in the evening.



If you would like a box of envelopes and do not already use the ACH process, inform Linda in the office, or Shelly Jasek, treasurer.

**Offering Giving Option**

Simply Giving is offered through the church office for automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account to give to St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Forms are available on the table in the hallway. Please fill out the form and return to the church office. Should you have questions, please contact Linda Ludwig @ 772-9349.



Please note that use of the Fellowship Hall, or any part of church property, must be approved by church administration prior to use. False security alarms cause interruption of church personnel family time and can result in fines up to \$500 by the Waco Police Department. Advance request for use should be submitted to the Church Office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Altar Flowers**



If you would like to place flowers on the altar (\$25 for an arrangement), please sign up on the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary.

**March Birthdays**

Geneva Massingill	3/1
Violet Wiechering	3/1
Carolyn Van Auken	3/6
Jillian Duncan	3/9
Hans Sellers	3/9
Pat Dietrich	3/11
Rachel Cotner	3/12
Christopher Cocek	3/13
Norma Swanson	3/14
Rosemary Fielder	3/15
David Vanderkinter	3/15
Bethany Baker	3/17
Michelle Cocek	3/18
Henry Lippe	3/20
Donna Zimmerman	3/22
Robert Cotner	3/25
Beth Pristash	3/26
Kyra White	3/26
Shannon Adams	3/27
Del Hensel	3/28
Kenneth Busch	3/29
Helen Henrichs	3/29

**March Wedding Anniversaries**

Bill & Diane Jones	3/5
Lyle & Sharon Gripp	3/6
Bill & Cora Gillespie	3/31

**NEWSLETTER**



The monthly newsletter deadline is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

Please send submissions to [cvanauken@grandecom.net](mailto:cvanauken@grandecom.net) or place your handwritten information and thank you notes in the wooden box near the entrance of the workroom. Thank you.



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 2:00 A.M. On Saturday night, set your clocks forward one hour (i.e., losing one hour) to "spring ahead."

**Sunday Bulletin Information**



Please make a note that any changes or requests that need to be in the bulletin on Sunday should be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before. Thank-you for your help!

# MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 8:30 AM - STEPHEN MIN (SUPV) 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM SUNDAY LEARNING</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 11:00 AM DOMINO GROUP</p>	<p>4 6:30 AM MEN'S BRK 12:00 pm LENT LEARNING 5:30 pm MARY MARTHA 5:45 pm LENT LEARNING 6:30 pm CHOIR</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 9:00 AM QUILTERS</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM SUNDAY LEARNING</p>	<p>9 10:00 AM GRACE CIR 4:30 PM KATHERINE LUTHERAN CIR 5:30 PM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING</p>	<p>10 11:00 AM DOMINO GROUP</p>	<p>11 12:00 PM LENT LEARNING 5:45 PM LENT LEARNING 6:30 PM CHOIR</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9:00 AM QUILTERS</p>	<p>14 9:00 AM CALLIGRAPHY FELLOWSHIP HALL</p>
<p>15 8:00 AM NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM SUNDAY LEARNING</p>	<p>16 6:00 pm FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING</p>	<p>17 11:00 AM DOMINO GROUP 6:30 pm STEPHEN MINISTRIES</p>	<p>18 12:00 PM LENT LEARNING 5:45 PM LENT LEARNING 6:30 PM CHOIR</p>	<p>19 6:30 PM CHURCH COUNCIL</p>	<p>20 9:00 AM QUILTERS</p>	<p>21 10:00 AM CLEAN UP @ CHURCH</p>
<p>22 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM SUNDAY LEARNING</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 11:00 AM DOMINO GROUP</p>	<p>25 12:00 PM LENT LEARNING 5:45 PM LENT LEARNIN 6:30 PM CHOIR</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9:00 AM QUILTERS</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM SUNDAY LEARNING</p>	<p>30 5:30 PM W-ELCA BIBLE STUDY LEADERS</p>	<p>31 11:00 AM DOMINO GROUP</p>				

# MARCH 2020

# MINISTERS OF WORSHIP

	Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 22	Mar 29
Worship Assistant	Bradley Linda	Clay Sellers	DeAnna Toten Beard	Meridith Sellers	Shelly Jasek
Lector	Clay Sellers	Clay Sellers	Beth Pristash	Clay Sellers	TBD
Children's Sermon	Pastor Kelsey	Pastor Kelsey	DeAnna Toten Beard	Pastor Kelsey	Pastor Kelsey
Elements					
Acolytes	Ziggy Sellers Max Towers	Ziggy Sellers Max Towers	Ziggy Sellers Max Towers	Ziggy Sellers Max Towers	Ziggy Sellers Max Towers
Communion Assistant	Rosemary Fielder Paula Jenson	Marcy Howell	Rosemary Fielder Linda Stanford	Linda Heyde Linda Stanford	Linda Heyde Beth Pristash
Greeter	Roy & Florence Anderson	Roy & Florence Anderson	Roy & Florence Anderson	Roy & Florence Anderson	Roy & Florence Anderson
Greeter					
Ushers	Daylon Crye	Daylon Crye	Daylon Crye	Daylon Crye	Daylon Crye
Ushers	Ross Browne	Ross Browne	Ross Browne	Ross Browne	Ross Browne
Ushers	Kim Browne	Kim Browne	Kim Browne	Kim Browne	Kim Browne
Ushers					
Communion Set Up	Peggy Tooker	Peggy Tooker	Peggy Tooker	Peggy Tooker	Peggy Tooker
Wash Communion	Carolyn Van Auken	Carolyn Van Auken	Carolyn Van Auken	Carolyn Van Auken	Carolyn Van Auken
Wash	Marcy Howell	Marcy Howell	Marcy Howell	Marcy Howell	Marcy Howell
Tellers	Bill Moeller Terry Bracken	Bill Moeller Terry Bracken	Bill Moeller Terry Bracken	Bill Moeller Terry Bracken	Bill Moeller Terry Bracken
Flowers	Peggy Tooker Glory to God	Bill & Diane Jones 54 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary			Beth Pristash Blessings received

## Easter Lily Order Form

It's time to begin thinking about ordering Easter lilies for the Easter morning worship service. The cost of each plant is \$12.00. If you would like to purchase a lily for Easter worship, please complete the form below, place in an envelope along with your check or cash payment, and drop it in the offering plate.

**The deadline is April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Please print clearly

**NUMBER OF PLANTS PURCHASED** \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify either

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Or

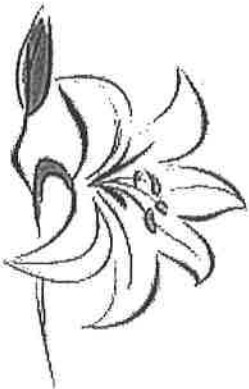
In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

If neither is filled out, your purchase will be listed "To the glory of God [your name]"

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

You may pick up your plant after the service on Easter Morning.





**Saint Matthew Lutheran Church**  
**800 North New Road**  
**Waco, Texas 76710**

**Address Correction Requested**

Want to CONTACT us at Saint Matthew  
Lutheran  
Telephone: 254/772-9349

Website: [www.saintmatthewwaco.org](http://www.saintmatthewwaco.org)

Email: Church Office  
[smlcoffice@saintmatthewwaco.org](mailto:smlcoffice@saintmatthewwaco.org)

Friend us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheran](http://www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheran)

Church Office Hours:  
Monday through Thursday 9:00 am –1:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.

**Remember:** If you **do not have a code** to the alarm system (which is different from the code to the key pad outside the front and back doors), **DO NOT enter the building after office hours**, or if no one else is already in the building. All Council members and the various group leaders that meet at St. Matthew have codes for the alarm system.

**Church Council Members:**

**President:** Paula Jenson  
cspjenson@aol.com  
**Vice-President:** Stephanie Abricht  
S\_abricht@yahoo.com  
**Secretary:** Sally Engelbrecht  
Sengel1918@yahoo.com  
**Treasurer:** Shelly Jasek  
sjasek@hotmail.com

**Council-at-large:**

**Kirk Krause** Kirkkrause84@gmail.com  
**Cynthia Tingle** catingle@yahoo.com  
**Sharon Gripp** Sharon\_k\_johnson@baylor.edu  
**Jeremy Wallace** JWallace@harmonytx.org  
**Linda Stanford** lstanford@mclennan.edu