

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

October 2020

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



September 29, 2020

Dear Beloved St. Matthew Community,

As we anticipate moving forward through the remainder of the year, we are set to begin to offer an in-person worship in our building as an option for Sunday worship, while maintaining our current online service and fellowship time in their current form. Some factors that went in to determining this as a safe time begin an in-person option included the steady decline of the positivity rate in the area, and no surge in cases since all the local schools began their semesters.

In person worship will begin on **Oct. 11 at 9:30 am**. This will not be the joyous grand re-opening that we would have hoped for or imagined, but will hopefully prove spiritually nourishing for those who have missed being with others to worship, pray, and receive the sacrament.

Because we want to ensure safe distancing practices, the number will be limited to **40 people** for the in-person service in our sanctuary. This means that you will need to sign up ahead of time to attend the in-person service. How will you and your family do this?

A link to sign up will be sent out in the weekly email on Monday before the service. This is a good time to double check that you are getting the church emails, and if not to double check your spam/junk mail. If you have an email, but haven't been receiving them please reach out to the office and to Pastor Kelsey.

We are using a platform called "sign-up genius" (you do not need an account or an email to use this platform). After clicking the link, check "sign up" and then the click the submit button. You will then be prompted to add your name and the number of people attending. It is first come first serve, so once all of the slots are filled you will no longer be able to sign up for that week. As many of us are living day to day, it is preferred that you sign up earlier in the week so we know what to anticipate on Sunday.

If you don't have internet access you can sign up for the service by calling the church office during regular business hours starting the Monday before the Sunday in which you want to attend.

None of this is ideal, and none of this is perfect, but with the grace and help God we continue on together. As one of my colleagues recently said, this has turned into an ultra-marathon, and now we are just taking that next step to tackle the next mile, all the while cheering one another on along the way.

In the hope of Christ,
Pastor Kelsey

REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-BUILDING WORSHIP

St. Matthew Lutheran, Waco

Prioritizing the care of the vulnerable among us, and trusting that the Holy Spirit continues to unite us wherever and however we gather, we will be guided by the following practices when gathering in the building for worship:



STAYHOME IF YOU FEEL UNWELL

Play it safe! Please stay home if you have a cough, fever, or have been around others who are ill. From the Texas Department of Health, it is recommended that people 65 years or older with medical issues like heart disease, diabetes, cancer, or a weakened immune system, should remain home as much as possible.



WEAR A FACE MASK

Masks must be worn over the mouth and nose while inside the building. This is one of the simplest things we can do to protect others in our community as we gather together.



KEEP PERSONAL DISTANCE

Pews will be roped off; those not in family groups will be seated 6ft apart.



NO SINGING TOGETHER

Singing, even with masks at six feet apart, is not safe at this time. I know it's a bummer. (<https://tinyurl.com/y2tsex3s>)



SHORTENED SERVICE

The service will be 30-40 minutes in length to minimize time in a contained indoor space.



ONLINE/PHONE WORSHIP CONTINUES

A recorded worship service will continue to be available on Facebook and by phone via Zoom.

Church Council Zoom meeting September 15

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

Members absent: Shelly Jasek and Cynthia Tingle

- The checking account balance, as of August 31, 2020, is \$220,074.79. Income less expenses is \$5,747.42 for the month of August and \$38,931.78 year-to-date.
- Pastor Kelsey will start confirmation during fall 2020.
- The Property Committee has completed pew repair on the right side, when facing the altar, of the sanctuary.
- Pastor Kelsey will have a pet blessing day on October 4.
- Pledge cards will be mailed out in the next couple of weeks.
- Crestview Elementary has an ongoing need of disinfectant wipes; if you have access to any of these wipes with at least 70% alcohol content, please bring them to Pastor Kelsey and she will ensure they are delivered to the school.
- The coronavirus statistics are still being monitored. There could be a phased reopening if the numbers continue their downward trend, but communication will continue as the statistics change. Masks and social distancing are required.

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.



St. Francis is the patron saint of animals, and his feast day is October 4th. To celebrate the wonders of God's creation, we will have a pet blessing on the evening of October 4th at 5:00 p.m.

This will be a short prayer service followed by a blessing for each of our beloved pets. You are invited to bring your furry, scaled, hooved, creepy or crawly friends on a leash, in a carrier, in a bowl, etc., to the lawn of St. Matthew. If your pet isn't good being around other friends you are invited to bring a picture to be blessed.

Donations for our teachers

We will continue to take donations of sanitizing wipes for our teachers. 70% alcohol is requested. Thanks for all you have donated already. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Confirmation Mentors Needed

We have some great middle-schoolers that will starting confirmation this fall. As we start exploring our faith, and exploring the Bible twice a month, Pastor Kelsey is looking for one person a month to join her and our awesome youth. No preparation will be needed just come, hang out with our awesome kids, and help them grow in their faith by participating and showing the support of the St. Matthew community.

Dates include...

Oct. 11 & 25

Nov. 8 & 22

Dec. 6 & 20

Jan. 10 & 24

Feb. 7 & 21

March 14 & 28

April 11 & 25

May 16 & 23

If you are interested please reach out to Pastor Kelsey.

Zoom Bible Study

Pastor Kelsey will continue to lead Bible Studies on Wednesdays via zoom beginning at 11:00 am. You don't need a computer to participate a phone is all you need. Ask Pastor Kelsey for more details.

Holy Happy Hour

Join members of this community for fellowship online, Thursday nights at 5:30 pm. This is a great way to connect with those we have been missing these last couple of months. If you need information on how to participate email or call Pastor Kelsey.



The family of Bill Moeller is sincerely grateful to our many friends who have given us support and comfort during this time of loss. All the calls, cards, texts, emails, food, visits and prayers were greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Jean Moeller and Family

Prayer Requests and Concerns

If you have an update or a concern, please call the office and leave a message or reach out to Pastor Kelsey directly.

**Members with Prayer Concerns:**

Ron Knobel, Alfred Gstattenbauer, Steve Jenson, Agnes Decker, Clydine Arthur, Ron & Stephanie Lambring, Lauren Roller, Elnora Schwake, Ron Peterson, Eunice & John Linda, Ty Henrichs, Tammy Vickrey, Stephanie Partin, Irene Erickson, Melba Hafer, Henry & Mary Ann Lippe, Toni Barnum, Darlene Cureton, Denise Self

Those for whom prayer is requested:

Allen Fields(Beth Pristash)
Carlos Remedios, Rodney Roller, Patrick Dalton, Brenda Light, Blake Griffin, Lou Brazil (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 Moeller)

Jo Bob Gough (Mary Herring)
Melva Williamson (Donna Zimmerman)
Jerry Murphy (Peggy Tooker)
Ty Croford (Linda Stanford)
Janice Richter (Meridith Sellers)
Peggy Ricketts, Vicki Terry (Carol Linda)
Patsy Forrester (Bill and Diane Jones)
Clinton Damron (Cora Gillespie)
Michelle and Karl VonRosenberg (Jo VonRosenberg)
Buddy Allen (Bradley Linda)
Kenneth and Paula Moerbe

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.

October Birthdays

Oct. 6 Stephanie Abright
Oct. 6 Agnes Decker
Oct. 6 Betty Fornelius
Oct. 7 Kemper Beard
Oct. 7 Carolyn Mascas
Oct. 7 Andrew Ronnevik
Oct. 7 Jacen Stanford
Oct. 7 Carson Taylor
Oct. 9 Michael Bancale
Oct. 9 Ross Browne
Oct. 12 Sha Towers
Oct. 14 Cindy Hutyra
Oct. 15 Thomas Mitchell
Oct. 15 Lindsay Moss
Oct. 16 Cory Zimmerman
Oct. 17 Lanah Bagley
Oct. 19 Jacie Duncan
Oct. 23 Bobby Rawlings
Oct. 24 Jay Dittmann
Oct. 24 Roger Fornelius
Oct. 28 Marianna Busch
Oct. 29 Jenna Conner
Oct. 30 Heather Baker
Oct. 30 Cora Gillespie
Oct. 31 Andrew Dittmann

October Anniversaries

Oct. 11 Roger and Betty Fornelius
Oct. 21 Cory and Stephanie Partin

The **monthly newsletter deadline** is the **3rd Sunday of each month**. Please send submissions to

NEWSLETTER 

cvanauken@grandecom.net or place your handwritten information and thank you notes in the wooden box near the entrance of the workroom. Thank you.

Online Calendar



As we work to keep our online calendar up to date, please contact Sally Engelbrecht, sengel1918@yahoo.com, for any additions or corrections

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. In addition, you can give from your phone using the GivePlus+ app and entering zip code 76710 to find St. Matthew.



**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

Email: Church Office
smlcoffice@saintmatthewwaco.org

Friend us on Facebook:
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 Abright
S_abright@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