

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

November 2020

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Running on Empty

The other day when I was driving to the church the low fuel light came on in my car. Not something of big concern as I drove across town to the office. About half way through my drive, my car started to make the dreaded dinging sound, like it does when something is wrong. As if the light wasn't enough indication to tell me to get gas, add the annoying ding. I got to work just fine, and completely forgot about it. That is, until I was running late to get to an appointment across town and didn't have time to stop and fill up. Now I know some of you probably like to test your luck when your gas gage is low, but for me I don't like to risk it. I prayed long and hard when I got back into my car after my appointment that I could make it to a gas station which was 3.5 miles away. But every time I had to speed up or step on the gas, I held my breath.

In all honesty, it feels like I have been holding my breath since March. And I suspect that many of you can relate. There is so much exhaustion about living in pandemic times that wouldn't be so otherwise. Everything we do takes so much more mental energy as we try to plan for unknown circumstances, try to keep ourselves and others safe, as we weigh risk, and determine what is the best practice for us and our families. Combined with our political climate, dealing with an illness, taking care of loved ones, and navigating heavy feelings of grief, we are left not knowing if and when our spiritual, mental, and physical tanks will run dry. Every little thing seems to drain us more. And we hold our breath, hoping we can make it to the next day, month, and year.

While praying that I didn't run out of gas, I thought of Jesus and the woman at the well. Where Jesus explains that his tank never runs dry. That this is the source of life when we need it. This is the hope we crave right now, to fill our tank. This is the source of love and assurance we need to get us through the next minute, hour, day and month. The great thing is that we don't need to hold our breath until we get there, because this source of life comes to us. We are all in different places right now, and have been dealing with the effects of these last months in different ways, but I pray that wherever you are, that you know that you are not alone, and that Christ is certainly with you.

I hope you enjoy this poem from Mary Oliver. It spoke to me when I was feeling empty this past week.

Thirst
by Mary Oliver

Another morning and I wake with thirst
for the goodness I do not have. I walk
out to the pond and all the way God has
given us such beautiful lessons. Oh Lord,
I was never a quick scholar but sulked
and hunched over my books past the
hour and the bell; grant me, in your
mercy, a little more time. Love for the
earth and love for you are having such a
long conversation in my heart. Who
knows what will finally happen or
where I will be sent, yet already I have
given a great many things away, expect-
ing to be told to pack nothing, except the
prayers which, with this thirst, I am
slowly learning.



Church Council Zoom meeting

October 20, 2020

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

Members absent: Sharon Gripp

- The checking account balance, as of September 30, 2020, is \$219,806.61; that amount includes \$53,848.91 miscellaneous designated funds. Income less expenses is (\$1,765.48) for the month of October and \$37,244.30 year-to-date.
- Pastor Kelsey participated in a HOT conference and congregations were challenged to donate \$250 to a seeds of change/Mission Endowment Fund campaign. This money will help congregations suffering from the pandemic and help start new ministries that do not have the money. The council approved the donation.
- There are 41 people signed up for Reformation Day Oktoberfest on October 25.
- Quilts and kits will be gathered on November 14.
- Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve services, and the annual congregational meeting were discussed.
- The annual Lutefisk dinner has been canceled.

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

Saint Matthew Lutheran Women of the ELCA:
Some good news from W-ELCA. It has been eight months since the February W-ELCA General Meeting. At that meeting, glass jars were decorated to be used to save "coins" for the annual **Thankoffering Sunday**. Happy to let you know the **Thankoffering service** will be **Sunday, November 8 at 9:30 a.m.** Please place your *donation* in the white envelope by the offering plate on the table in the narthex.

Please make your check payable to "Saint Matthew W-ELCA" and write **Thankoffering** on the memo line and place your check in the offering plate. If you are unable to attend on that Sunday, please mail your *donation* to the church **by Friday, November 6**, and write "W-ELCA" on the front of the envelope. One check will be mailed to WOMEN OF THE ELCA. Then congratulate yourself. It feels good to act on gratitude, doesn't it? Thank you for all you do for Women of the ELCA. You really do make a difference in people's lives. ***Hope you will come and be a part of this service on November 8.***

Lutheran World Relief Update

As you will recall the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering was canceled this past April for shipment of LWR items to Plano, TX. Confirmation has been received that **LWR items will be collected Saturday, November 14, 2020 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.** in the back parking lot of St. Matthew Lutheran and delivered to Plano by 3:00 p.m.

Quilts, school kits and personal care kits already packed will be shipped. If you would like to **donate \$10.00** to purchase items for a personal care kit, please make your **check** payable to: St. Matthew Lutheran Church and write "for lwr kit" on the memo line. **Your donation must be received at the church by Sunday, November 08, 2020.**

Food for Families

Covid-19 has not only impacted the way we worship and connect as a church family, but it has taken its toll on all sorts of businesses, especially our local non-profits. Thank you for all of your donations to Caritas both food and monetarily over this last year.

Did you know that each dollar given to Caritas equates to 8.4 pounds of food or enough for 18 meals? To help Caritas during this difficult time, and to feed more people in need in the area, we will be collecting monetary donations for the Food for Families Drive which takes place on Nov. 20th this year. You can mail or drop of a check written to St. Matthew with "Food For Families" written in the memo line until Nov. 17th. If you have any questions please contact Paula Jenson.

Solicitations Over Email

Over the last couple of months we have had a few emails gone out with people either pretending to be Pastor Kelsey, or other members of the congregation. This is just a reminder that the church or others in the congregation will never ask for gift-cards or "quick favors" like this over the internet. People in faith communities are generous and eager to help, and unfortunately become targets for these scams.

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.



Dear St. Matthew Family,
I want to take this opportunity to thank you, the congregation of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, for your generosity toward Ty Croford. On March 11, 2020, Ty had oral surgery, and the doctor extracted 5 teeth that could not be saved. I paid \$702.80 at

this appointment. On September 3, Ty had a dental appointment where the dentist began working on four other teeth (lateral incisor, canine, first and second premolar). At this appointment, I paid \$667.00. We have now spent all of the money St. Matthew collected for Ty.

Because of this dental work, Ty is not in constant pain from his teeth. Ty was able to keep his job as an interpreter for a school district. His deaf student accepted him because his teeth look so much better because of the work the dentist was able to do. You have made a true difference in Ty's life. There is much work that still must be done to his teeth, but you gave him the start he needed that enabled him to keep his job and to start a new life for himself.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,
Linda Stanford

Dear Members of St. Matthew,
Thanks all of you for the wonderful bag full of fun things (word search and coloring and all kinds of snacks, I look forward to snack time). The bag it came in is beautiful and will be useful when I get to go shopping. May God bless each one of you for your kindness. I miss church and seeing everyone.

Thank you again.
Melba Ruth Hafer

Dear St. Matthew Family,
I want to thank you for your generous donations of disinfectant wipes. Myself and my class appreciate this. We want you to know how much you have helped our class and our school. Thank you from our classroom here at Kendrick.

Thank you,
Ashley Jenson (Kendrick Achieve)

St. Matthew members,
Thank you for your loving kindness.

- The special ed staff at Crestview Elementary

St. Matthew Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful care package. You are all such caring people. Thank you for keeping me in your prayers.

Sincerely,
Alfred Gstattenbauer

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 Lambring, Lauren Roller, Elnora Schwake, 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:**Those for whom prayer is requested:**

Allen Fields, (Beth Pristash)
 Carlos Remedios, Rodney Roller, Patrick Dalton,
 Brenda Light, Blake Griffin, Lou Brazil, Kylie Kubicki (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, Cynthia (Meridith Sellers)
 Patsy Forrester (Bill and Diane Jones)
 Clinton Damron (Cora Gillespie)
 Michelle and Karl VonRosenberg (Jo VonRosenberg)
 Mike Walker, Don Walker (Edie Walker)
 Buddy Allen (Bradley Linda)
 Debbie (Elnora Schwake)
 Frances Krumm (Rilla Vieregge)
 Vicki Terry (Carol Linda)
 Kenneth and Paula Moerbe

November Birthdays

Lyle Gripp	2
Kaydence Moss	2
Stephen Heyde	3
Terry Roller	5
Ziggy Sellers	6
Ken Cocek	9
Garrison Nordt	10
Ned Massingill	11
John Smith	12
Rod Rodeman	13
Gracie Beard	14
Aaron Jasek	14
Hope Cotner	16
Lee Cruse	18
Barbara Johnson	18
Sarah Martin	18
Tim Pristash	23
Stacey Vanderkinter	24
Gus Gustafson	25
Pastor Kelsey	25
Ryan Pederson	27
Clydine Arthur	28
Hannah Schwieger	29
Weldon Howell	30

November Wedding Anniversaries

6 th	Paul & Norma Swanson
6 th	Bobby & Mary Koon
7 th	Bobby & Janet Rawlings
8 th	Clay & Meridith Sellers
10 th	Jason & Teresa Umberger
10 th	Bobby & Donna Zimmerman
17 th	John & Carol Linda

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 please contact the church office with any additions or removals.

Notes on Worship

Worship is at the heart of what we do as Christians. It is essential for our relationship with God and with one another. I am truly grateful for the flexibility of this congregation to navigate through these waters together. Thanks to talented and dedicated individuals we will continue to offer both online and in-person options for worship. Knowing that neither is perfect or ideal, we trust the Holy Spirit to move about us as one congregation. A reminder to sign-up for in-person worship either online (a link can be found on our website, Facebook page, and in email blasts), or call the church office the Monday before you wish to attend. More guidelines regarding in person worship can be found below.

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

**NEWSLETTER** 

The **monthly newsletter deadline** is the **3rd Sunday of each month**. Please send submissions to cvanauken@grandecom.net or place your handwritten information and thank you notes in the wooden box near the entrance of the workroom. Thank you.

**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.

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.



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.

Reverse Advent Calendar

As we anticipate the start of Advent at the end of this month, consider starting the season with a reverse advent calendar with your family. Collect items as shown below, and then deliver them to a local foodbank on Christmas Eve.

**REVERSE
ADVENT
CALENDAR**

Add food item to box each day in December until Christmas Eve

December 1	.....	Box of Cereal
December 2	.....	Peanut Butter
December 3	.....	Stuffing Mix
December 4	.....	Boxed Potatoes
December 5	.....	Macaroni & Cheese
December 6	.....	Canned Fruit
December 7	.....	Canned Tomatoes
December 8	.....	Canned Tuna
December 9	.....	Dessert Mix
December 10	.....	Jar of Applesauce
December 11	.....	Canned Sweet Potatoes
December 12	.....	Cranberry Sauce
December 13	.....	Canned Beans
December 14	.....	Box of Crackers
December 15	.....	Package of Rice
December 16	.....	Box of Oatmeal
December 17	.....	Box of Pasta
December 18	.....	Spaghetti Sauce
December 19	.....	Chicken Noodle Soup
December 20	.....	Tomato Soup
December 21	.....	Can of Corn
December 22	.....	Can of Mixed Vegetables
December 23	.....	Can of Carrots
December 24	.....	Can of Green Beans

**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
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