

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

May 2021

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



There is an important day in the midst of the church calendar that often gets overlooked this time of year. It doesn't come with the excitement and amazement of the resurrection, nor does it bring with it the fire of Pentecost. Though I am sure that it is a day that the disciples never forgot; it is the Ascension of our Lord.

The ascension of our Lord is celebrated on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of Easter, the Thursday before Pentecost. It is the day that we say Christ ascended into heaven. There is nothing super exciting about this church festival day other than the affirmation that Christ ascended to God the Father to reign over life and death. To celebrate the Ascension is another way to say that Christ indeed rose from the dead.

“Then [Jesus] led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.” Luke 24:50-51

Can you imagine the emotions and feelings of the disciples in that moment? One moment Jesus is there with them in the flesh, and the next he's gone. They could no longer touch his wounds or share meals with him around a camp fire. The world was different now. And as they are trying to figure out how to live into this new reality, they are given a promise. A promise that they will be filled with a spirit, a Holy Spirit, that is to empower them to continue on in this ministry of bringing the Good News to all people.

In a way, Ascension Day sort of begins the world's longest relay race ever. We can think of it as Jesus handing over the baton saying, “you have it now, it is your responsibility to help carry this message of hope to all people, my leg of the race is now complete.” I can see the disciples standing there that day with their heads pointed upward, hoping that their gaze could somehow prompt Christ's swift return. Despite this inclination, they are told not to gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus, but rather to see and know his presence among themselves as they proclaim the Good news of Easter. You, the church, are now Christ Jesus' body, even as his earthly body disappears from sight. It's your race to run now.

This grand relay didn't end with the disciples, it has been going on for thousands of years, as generations of faithful people continue to pass this baton of Christ's love to one another. The baton is now ours to hold. Jesus hands it to us. Enlivened with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are part of this relay devoted to spreading the good news of Christ with all those we meet. On your mark, get set, go!

In the hope of the ascended Christ,  
Pastor Kelsey

**An update regarding our worship life...**

We will continue to worship outdoors at 9:30am on Sunday mornings and online at 10:00am through mid may. At the May council meeting we will discern our next steps. Thanks for your support, and graciousness throughout this time.

**Worship Volunteers**

As we continue with in person services we will be in need of **ushers** and an **assisting minister**. Sign up by following the QR code below. The assisting minister will also serve as the reader, this is to limit shared microphone usage. Ushers will also assist in the setting up of the outdoor space. If you have any questions please reach out to Pastor Kelsey.

**Council Meeting Highlights**  
**April 12, 2021**

Members present: Stephanie Abright, Linda Stanford, Paul Larson, Pastor Kelsey, Kirk Krause, Cynthia Tingle, Jeremy Wallace, Terry Roller, Denise Masters, Ashley Jenson, & Beth Pristash

- The checking account balance, as of February , 2021, is \$280,016.75.
- Worship will continue outdoors and online through mid may. Will reevaluate at May meeting.
- Update was given on the administrative assistant search. Applications were received and skill assessments have begun.
- Discussion took place about establishing a records retention policy an ad hoc committee to be formed.
- Discussion around new copier machine as the lease is up in May.

*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.*

**Adult Education Opportunity**

This May, you're invited to be part of a four-week Christian education series on Christianity in India. We'll explore what it means to be part of God's global church and learn about Indian Christians' gifts and struggles over the course of centuries. Led by Andrew Ronnevik, the series will incorporate his doctoral research and his experiences of living and traveling in India. Each week, a short teaching video will be posted online for you to view on your own, and then we'll gather together online for conversation based on the video.

Zoom Conversations will be on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. for 30-60 minutes. May 3, 10, 17, and 24. We will use the Sunday zoom links for these meetings.

**Fellowship for Single Women**

A **new fellowship group** will begin this month for women of all ages who are single. While every story is different, this is a time for women to connect with one another in sharing their life experiences, and build one another up as the body of Christ. **The first gathering will be on May 11th at 10:00 a.m. at Café Cappuccino on Richland Drive.** If you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Fielder.

**College Scholarships**

The Scholarship Committee at St. Matthew Lutheran Church is **accepting applications** for college scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year. A scholarship application form is available on the St. Matthew website. ***All completed application forms and official transcripts should be submitted by May 14, 2021.*** Applications and official transcripts can be mailed to the church office at 800 N. New Road, Waco, TX 76710 or emailed to the Chair of the Scholarship Committee, Stephanie Abright, [s\\_abright@yahoo.com](mailto:s_abright@yahoo.com).



### Friday Quilters Meetings

Friday Quilters **are meeting again** in the Fellowship Hall on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. We usually finish up around 11:00 a.m. Come join us. If you can tie a knot you can help us assemble the quilts. We have a great fellowship time.

### Emergency Fund

Through your generosity, St. Matthew now has an Emergency Fund available to members of the St. Matthew community for up to \$250 per year. This fund is to assist individuals/families with immediate needs related, but not limited to, food, housing medical costs, job loss, and other emergent situations. Hard copies of the applications are available in the church office. If you would like to contribute to this fund you may do so by indicating "emergency fund" on your offering envelop or write it in the memo line of your written check. Any questions please contact Pastor Kelsey or Stephanie Abright, Council President.

### Members with Prayer Concerns:

Steve Jenson, Agnes Decker, Clydine Arthur, Ron Lambring, Lauren Roller, Elnora Schwake, Eunice & John Linda, Ty Henrichs, Larry Henrichs, Tammy Vickrey, Stephanie Partin, Melba Hafer, Toni Barnum, Darlene Cureton, Denise Self, Lee Cruse, Edie Walker, Rita Bruer

### We express our Christian Sympathy to:

† The family and friends of Judy Kay Deaver

### Those for whom prayer is requested:

Michelle, Jerrod, Archer Frank, Morris Mebane, Melanie (Beth Pristash)  
Rodney Roller, Patrick Dalton, Kylie Kubicki, Ralph Sparks, (Terry Roller)  
Roger Sanders (Clydine Arthur)  
Jimmy Moore, Laura Burney (Ross & Kim Browne)  
Philip Reyna (Mary Koon)  
Larry Warenke (Jean Moeller)  
Kay Peterson (Mary Herring)  
Ty Croford (Linda Stanford)  
Debbie Vonasek (Elnora Schwake)  
Vicki Terry (Carol Linda)  
Larry Leshikar (Debbie Evans)  
Bill Mosley (Paula Jenson)  
Andrea Prevo, Dale Pommer (Sharon Peterson)  
Marsha Smith, Rhonda Smith Owens (Denise Self)



Thank you for keeping members of the congregation, and their friends and family in your prayers. Please contact the church office with any additions or removals.

### May Birthdays

Ron Knobel	5/3
Cory Stanford	5/4
Sarah Schwieger	5/5
Judy Schwieger	5/6
Mary Krause	5/8
Maggie Johnson	5/10
Carter Towers	5/11
Alaine Copeland	5/13
Sharon Peterson	5/13
Bobby Zimmerman	5/13
Tammy Bush	5/17
Jo Von Rosenberg	5/17
Eunice Linda	5/21
Shawanna White	5/22
Linda Stanford	5/23
Bea Ronnevik	5/26
Max Towers	5/27

**BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER  
FOR EUNICE LINDA**

You are invited to shower Eunice with birthday cards in celebration of her

**90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY on May 21st.**

**Mailing Address: Eunice Linda**  
**C/O The Brazos at Waco, Room 310**  
**2430 Marketplace Dr.**  
**Waco, TX 76711**

### May Wedding Anniversaries:

Cory & Megan Stanford	5/16
Bill & Stephanie Abright	5/21

**Welcome Nate Pierce!**

We are happy that Nate has accepted the position to serve as our office administrator.

Nate graduated from MCC with a degree in paralegal studies. He brings with him office and administrative skills through classroom



learning, internships, and his previous work experiences. Nate's first day in the office will be Monday April 26th. Thank you for your patience as we have been in transition, and thank you in advance for your patience as we work to bring Nate on board.

Fun Facts about Nate

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Moody, and it's where I have lived pretty much my whole life, it's small, but a friendly place

**What's your favorite food?** Pizza.

**What's your favorite book?** My favorite book series is *The Underland Chronicles* that I read when I was younger. It's about a kid who finds an underground city with people and giant animals underground, and was written by the author of the Hunger Games.

**What's your favorite movie?** Forrest Gump

**What do you like to do on your days off?** When the weather is nice, I like to go to the lake and go water boarding.

To all of the mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, aunts, honorary mother figures, and influential women in our lives, we give thanks for your love and support. We hope you have a blessed day on May 9, and feel love throughout the year.



**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). Thank you.

**Offering Giving Options**

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.

**Congratulations St. Matthew Graduates!****Rachel Cotner**

I will be graduating this May with a BS in Environmental and Ecological Engineering and a minor in Environmental Policy from Purdue University. In the fall, I'll be starting my graduate program at the University of Denver's Korbel School of International Studies working towards a MA in Global Environmental Sustainability. After grad school I hope to pursue a career in developing climate change policy and climate diplomacy.

**Carter Towers**

Hi! I'm Carter Towers, and I've been going to St. Matthew since I was five years old. I'm graduating from Midway High School, where I have played baseball, been involved in technical theater, and discovered many other interests. After high school I plan on attending Baylor University and majoring in Business Management or Entrepreneurship. I look forward to where this future will take me!

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
800 N. New Road  
Waco, TX 76710

Address Correction Requested

**Contact us at St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

**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-Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**President:** Stephanie Abright

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**Vice-President:** Linda Stanford

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**Secretary:** Paul Larson

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**Treasurer:** Beth Pristash

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**COUNCIL-AT-LARGE**

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