

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

Email: Church Office

smlcoffice@saintmatthewwaco.org

Friend us on Facebook:

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

s_abright@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Linda Stanford

lstanford@mclennan.edu

Secretary: Paul Larson

Paul_larson@baylor.edu

Treasurer: Beth Pristash

eprist@sbcglobal.net

COUNCIL-AT-LARGE

Kirk Krause

Kirkkrause84@gmail.com

Cynthia Tingle

catingle@yahoo.com

Jeremy Wallace

jwallace@harmontx.org

Terry Roller

troller@hot.rr.com

Ashley Jenson

jenson.ashley@gmail.com

Denise Masters

mastercat1984@yahoo.com

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

July 2021

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Becoming Like Children

Children approach a life of faith with a sense of joy, wonder, and honesty. Perhaps this is why Jesus uses children as an example of faith, because they exemplify a conviction that sometimes we lose as we age.

The more time I spend around children I learn time and time again that kids absorb more than we often give them credit for, and become little theologians themselves.

I was reminded of this when I was talking with a friend, an ELCA pastor in Iowa, and she shared a recent conversation with her seven year old daughter...

Pastor: It's probably going to be Dad picking you up today so look for him. I have a funeral and I am not sure I'll be done in time.

Pastor's Kid: Right, for the guy who was murdered.

P: Yeah, for him. There will be lots of sad people there & so I have important promises to share- that they are never alone, God is always with them. And God was always with their friend who died. And that when we die, we begin Life Everlasting.

PK: Yeah, Heaven is kind of like we live with Jesus instead of Jesus living with us.

I have been asked multiple times what I think is going to happen after we die, as if someone how through ordination and the laying on of hands I was given the answer to a secret we have all wondered. I think often times when people ask they are looking for an assurance that I can't give them, and I never know quite what to say. I try to be as honest as I can without thwarting expectations. But thanks to the faith of seven year old girl I know what to say, "Heaven is kind of like we live with Jesus instead of Jesus living with us."

We don't know what heaven will be like, and we don't know what happens after we die. What we do know is that whether we live or die we are with Jesus. That's all we need to know. As Romans reminds us "*Nothing* can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus".

What would our lives look like if we simply trusted that we were always with Jesus and nothing could change that? Would we sing a little louder? Would we get excited about things easier? Would we stop worrying about things that are out of our control? Would we be more willing to serve others than ourselves?

Perhaps the beautiful thing about childlike faith, is that it is not so childish after all.

Worship Update

Starting **July 4th**, we will be moving to one worship service at **9:30am** which will include the live-stream.

An update regarding group meetings...

As we begin to move our worship indoors and allow groups to meet inside the church we will also begin updating the website calendar to organize when groups will be meeting. If you wish to hold a group meeting at the church, call the church office to add your group to the list to be added to the calendar.

**Council Meeting Highlights**
June 14, 2021

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

- The balance in the checking account at the end of the month was \$307,000.
- We will return to one worship service on July 4th at 9:30am. Facemasks no longer required.
- Endowment committee formed with Bill Jones serving as chair.
- No restriction on group gathering size, encourage safety and caution while serving food at events.
- Approval of work to be done on flat roof using capital improvement funds. Bid accepted for the removal of the dead trees on our property.

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.

Pastor Kelsey will be on vacation visiting family and officiating weddings from July 1-11. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact the church office.

**W-ELCA**

Please note that the Katherine Luther Circle will NOT be meeting in July and August. Meetings will begin again in September.

The W-ELCA Board will be meeting on July 7th at 1:30 pm.

Walking the Grief Journey to start in July

After this past year we have experienced both collective and individual grief. **Walking the grief Journey** is a supportive, compassion-filled series, for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one, or are experiencing any kind of grief at this time. We will explore anger, depression, fears, acceptance, and new strength for a hopeful future. To accommodate schedules Pastor Kelsey is open to **two sessions, Wednesday evenings starting July 14 or Thursdays at noon (over lunch) starting July 15**. Please reach out to Pastor Kelsey with your interest and which time works best for you.

Bible Study

Join Pastor Kelsey for Bible Study on **Wednesdays at 11**. We will not meet on **July 7th**.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry supervision will begin again on **Sunday, July 11 at 8:30 a.m.** We will meet for about 45 minutes prior to the church service. Please plan to attend as we have much to catch up on after not meeting for over a year.





Sound Booth Volunteers

Sometimes help in worship doesn't always look like reading or serving up front, sometimes it means helping in the back behind the scenes. If you are interested in learning how to run our sound and help with the live-stream please reach out to Pastor Kelsey or call the church office.



Dear friends,

We are hopeful for the future, while we also acknowledge that there is much healing to be done as we move forward together. With this in mind, **we are pleased to announce that this year's theme for Art as Worship will be HEALING.**

Please consider responding creatively to this theme, while perhaps finding healing for yourself in that very response. And please share this invitation with the creative people in your life.

Our intention is to host our opening gala in person on Saturday, November 20 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Waco. We also plan to host an online gallery again this year in order to share this experience with a wider audience.

<http://fineartsministry.blogspot.com/2021/06/2021-art-as-worship-theme-announcement.html>



Fellowship for Single Women

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 July gathering will be on July 13th at 10:00 a.m. at Café Cappuccino on Richland Drive.** If you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Fielder.

Education Committee Meeting

The Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in Parrish Education/Sunday School – adults and children – are welcome to attend. We will begin planning for the 2021-22 Sunday School year.

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.



Domino Meetings



Domino meetings have resumed and meeting in the afternoon on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Save the Date

- ✠ Start-Up Sunday (Sunday school begins) August 22nd
- ✠ God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday September 12th

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, Lee Cruse, Rita
Bruer, Weldon Howell, Joanne Zuch.

Those for whom prayer is requested:



Michelle, Jerrod, Archer Frank, 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, Rodney Castilleja (Paula Jenson)
Andrea Prevo, Dale Pommer (Sharon Peterson)
Joann Bottoms (Mary Herring)
Paula Brafield Unger (Rilla Vierigg)
Sarah Gohlke (Jeane Moeller)
Joe Fortune (Tammy Bush)
Phil & Lillian Bancale, Sebastian Mullins,
Reba Widmer (Bancale Family)
Pastor Kenneth and Paula Moerbe (Elnora Schwake)
Tricia Fabiani (Doris Akard)
Patsy & Curtis Forrester (Bill & Diane Jones)

Our Christian Sympathy for the family and friends
of Sarah Gohlke.



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.



July Birthdays

Jeanne Dittmann	7/2
Troy Dodge	7/4
Mary Herring	7/4
Joanne Zuch	7/4
Michael Frey, IV	7/5
Steven Mullens	7/7
Janet Rawlings	7/7
Kimberly Browne	7/8
Monica Harper	7/8
John Taylor	7/9
Philip Van Auken	7/10
Aaron Gustafson	7/11
Karen Curtis	7/12
Jaina Stanford	7/12
Laura Bond	7/13
Linda Heyde	7/14
Edna Dietrich	7/16
Patricia Gorton	7/18
Ashley Jenson	7/18
Roxann White	7/18
James Prose	7/22
Victor Larson	7/23
Jessica Bancale	7/24
John Linda	7/24
Farrel Bolte	7/26
Marcyl Howell	7/26
Tye Stanford	7/28
McKenzie Gillette	7/29

July Anniversaries

Steve & Karen Mullens	7/26
Robert & Hope Cotner	7/28

NEWSLETTER 

The monthly
newsletter deadline is

the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please send
submissions to 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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9am - Worship Service 10:30am - Worship Service	28	29	30 11am - Bible Study	1	2 9am - Quilters	3
4 Independence Day 9am - Worship Service 10:30am - Worship Service	5 Independence Day observed	6 12pm - Dominoes 6pm - Education Committee	7 11am - Bible Study 1:30pm - W-ELCA Board Meeting	8	9 9am - Quilters	10
11 8:15am - Stephen Ministry 9am - Worship Service 10:30am - Worship Service	12 10am - Grace Circle	13 10am - Fellowship For Single	14 11am - Bible Study	15	16 9am - Quilters	17
18 9am - Worship Service 10:30am - Worship Service	19 Newspaper Articles Due	20 12pm - Dominoes	21 11am - Bible Study	22	23 9am - Quilters	24
25 9am - Worship Service 10:30am - Worship Service	26	27	28 11am - Bible Study	29	30 9am - Quilters	31