

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

October 2021

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



New Ministry Mission for St. Matthew

“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’” – Matthew 25:37-40

During my time in the office here at St. Matthew I have witnessed a lot of need right around us in the neighborhood. As a smaller congregation I have been discerning what is it that we can do to make difference right here in our community? How can we love our neighbors around us, and let them know we see them and we care? As I was sitting with these questions for over a year, the Spirit moved in a conversation I had with a colleague and the idea of setting up a **“Blessing Box”** outside of St. Matthew came to fruition.

The “Little Free Pantry” and “Little Free Library” movements have been making their way around the U.S. and there are a few already here in Waco, and I am thrilled that the council has approved St. Matthew to join this movement.

So, what does this new ministry look like for us?

As you enter church off of New Road, you will find a little wooden box with a cross on top (to be painted by our confirmation students). This will be our **“Blessing Box,”** and my hope is that this congregation, will fill this box with blessings for our community.

What kind of things are we looking for to fill our Blessing Box?

- Non-perishable food items (especially those that do not need to be cooked, and are easily opened)
- Snacks & Juice boxes (think of elementary school kids, we have plenty in the neighborhood)
- Hygiene items (small bottles of shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, feminine care products)
- Socks & scarves (especially in the cooler months)

We may add things to this list as the project continues. This will be a marathon not a sprint. As you feel moved to drop things in the box or to the church office please do so. The box is not overly big so it won't take much to fill the shelves. If the box goes empty during the week or over a weekend that's normal, and in fact, it encourages others to be moved by the Spirit to leave items in the box.

I am convinced now, more than ever, that small, seemingly insignificant acts of generosity, kindness, and compassion can make a big impact in the world, because I am constantly reminded that it is God's spirit at work in and through those things, and there is no limit to what God can do.

As a reminder I want to share with you the thank you note I received from the Chaplain's office at Providence Hospital after donating the food items and cards:

Pastor Kelsey and St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

I want to personally thank you and your church for the gift of snacks and cards to Ascension Providence Hospital. I delivered them to all our COVID units the day after they were delivered, giving some to each nurse, physician, respiratory therapist, environmental service worker I could find. All were excited that someone would think of them. I made sure to tell them that I was just the "delivery boy" as the snacks came from St. Matthew Lutheran Church! There were some left over to take to our staff in ICU on Tues. 9/21. On this day they were very short staffed and comments of appreciation were made such as, "this may be the only thing I get to eat today."

Thank you so much for your generosity to our over worked, under staffed, beleaguered front line workers. It was so greatly appreciated!

- Harrison Roper, Manager of Chaplain Services

In the Hope of Christ,
Pastor Kelsey

From the CDC:

"To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission." According to the CDC and the local health district, McLennan and many other Texas counties, have been identified as high transmission areas. To help prevent the spread to the most vulnerable in our community, masks are recommended indoors for worship and group gatherings, but not required at this time.



Council Meeting Highlights
September 16, 2021

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

Members absent:

- The balance in the checking account at the end of the month was \$280,00.
- Congregational meeting date approved as December 5, 2021
- Voted to approve the installation and new ministry of a blessing box.
- Vote to approve the nominating committee: Stephanie Abright, Kemper Beard, Clay Sellers, Shelly Jasek, Terry Roller, and Paula Jenson
- Continued Vigilance around COVID-19 in our community, especially with rising concerns with the Delta variant.

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.

**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.

Oktoberfest Celebration October 24th

We will gather in the St. Matthew parking lot on **Oct.24** from **4:30-6:30 pm** to celebrate our Lutheran roots and one another. Since Reformation Day actually falls on Halloween (all hallows eve), we will celebrate as a congregation a week early (our Reformation Worship Service will be Oct. 31).

An Oktoberfest inspired meal will be provided along with beverages for all ages. You are invited to bring a free will offering to help offset the cost of the meal, and a lawn chair for comfy outdoor seating (we will also have church chairs and tables set up outside).

This is a casual time to be together as a congregation. There will be music, fun giveaways, lawn games, and more.

Please RSVP by signing up in the gathering area outside of the sanctuary or by calling the church office.

Legacy Giving for Family, Ministry Seminar to be presented October 17th

Everything that we have is a gift that God places in our care during our lifetimes. We each have the privilege, responsibility and joy of being a steward, of caring for loved ones, for God's creation, and also creating gifts for Christian ministry.

As you plan your own legacy that will reflect your faith and values, the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest is here to assist you. We are here to help you care for your family and benefit Lutheran ministries, as well as your other favorite community and other non-profit organizations.

Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest provides comprehensive gift planning and management, personalized to your goals and your unique family and financial situation. The gifts the foundation receives and stewards are on behalf of other ministries.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church will host a Legacy Giving for Family and Ministry Seminar on Sunday, **October 17th**, following the worship service. Morgan Schmidlin, our synod gift planner with the foundation, will be with us to talk about options and possibilities for the future for our congregation.

During the seminar, we'll discuss:

- How to care and provide for family and other loved ones and provide legacy gifts for ministry and other non-profit organizations
- Review options for legacy gift sharing that will bless future generations forever
- That the foundation's services to the members of our congregation are provided at no cost and no obligation.

Blessing of the Animals

St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and his feast day is Oct. 4th. In remembrance of him, we will have a short blessing of the animals service on the evening of Oct. 3rd.

W-ELCA

Circle meetings for the Mary Martha Circle meet once a month on the **First Wednesday** at 5:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Circle meetings for the Katherine Luther Circle will meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 4:30pm and the Grace Circle will meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 10:00am.

LWR Health Kits

The **in-gathering** of quilts and health kits for Lutheran World Relief is **in November**. **Now is the time to start planning and gathering supplies.** LWR health kits help children and adults with hygiene as people find themselves in difficult and unpredictable situations. Items needed for the health kits include: One bath-size towel 52"x27" (dark color), two bath-size bars of soap 4-5 oz. in original packaging, one toothbrush in original packaging, one comb packaging removed, nail file and or clippers with file attached removed from packaging.

Bible Study



Join Pastor Kelsey for Bible Study on **Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.**

From prayer Angels to Care Companions

We give thanks for the ministry of the Prayer Angels over the last several years. As different needs continue to rise in the congregation this ministry is shifting as well. Care companions will work along side Pastor Kelsey in keeping in contact with those in our church who are in nursing homes, homebound, or dealing with health concerns. We continue to keep those on our prayer list in our prayers weekly. If this sounds like a ministry you might be interested in please reach out to Pastor Kelsey.

Stephen Ministry



The Stephen Ministry group will resume continuing education beginning on **Thursday, October 21, 2021. We will meet at 6:30 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. **All members of St. Matthew are welcome to join us** for continuing education including study of books on caring and giving and to hear speakers from time to time. We are usually finished in about an hour and a half.

If you have any questions or want more information, please ask Peggy Tooker, Carol Linda or Bill Abright.



Fellowship for Single Women

The October meeting for the fellowship for single women will be held Tuesday, October 26th at 10:00 a.m. at Cafe Cappuccino. For any questions, please contact Rosemary Fielder.

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.

Sound Volunteers

Help during 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. A guide is being prepared to help to make it as simple as possible.



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 13 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>

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,

John Linda, Ty Henrichs, Larry Henrichs, Tammy Vickrey, Stephanie Partin, Melba Hafer, Lee Cruse, Rita Bruer, Weldon Howell, Joanne Zuch.

Those for whom prayer is requested:

Archer Frank, Melanie, Charlotte Sperfslage, Heather Sperfslage, Shawn Sperfslage, the Family of Robin Tipton (Beth Pristash) Rodney Roller, Patrick Dalton, Kylie Kubicki, Ralph Sparks, Wanda Brinegar, Lorraine Mclane, Elaine Mclane, Betty, Matthew, James Hurst (Terry Roller) Roger Sanders (Clydine Arthur) Jimmy Moore, Laura Burney (Ross & Kim Browne) Philip Reyna (Mary Koon) Larry Warenke, Joyce Collins (Jean Moeller) Joann Bottoms, Sharron & John Collier (Mary Herring) Ty Croford (Linda Stanford) Vicki Terry (Carol Linda) Larry Leshikar (Debbie Evans) Kathy Neill (Bradley Linda) Bill Mosley, Rodney Castilleja, Chris Mosley, Greg Woodul (Paula Jenson) Dale Pommer (Sharon Peterson) Paula Barfield Unger (Rilla Vieregg) Phil Bancale, Reba Widmer (Bancale Family)

Pastor Kenneth and Paula Moerbe, Candice Vonasek, Debbie Vonasek, Dusty Engelholm (Elnora Schwake)
 Tricia Fabiani (Doris Akard)
 Lee Family (Anna Steggerda)
 Patsy & Curtis Forrester (Bill & Diane Jones)
 Rhonda & Shane Owens, Jeanette Velvetsky Quintanilla (Denise Self)
 Frank Simons (Colleen Early)
 Nell Ashley (Edie Walker)

October Anniversaries

Roger & Betty Fornelius	10/11
Cory & Stephanie Partin	10/21



The monthly newsletter deadline is

the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please send submissions to cvanauken@grandecom.net. Thank you.

We express our Christian sympathy to:

† Jerry and the family and friends of Darlene Cureton



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.

October Birthdays

Stephanie Abright	10/06
Agnes Decker	10/06
Betty Fornelius	10/06
Josh Phillips	10/06
Kemper Beard	10/07
Carson Taylor	10/07
Carolyn Mascas	10/07
Andrew Ronnevik	10/07
Jacen Stanford	10/07
Carson Taylor	10/07
Michael Bancale	10/09
Ross Browne	10/09
Sha Towers	10/12
Cindy Hutyra	10/14
Thomas Mitchell	10/15
Lindsay Moss	10/15
Cory Zimmerman	10/16
Lanah Bagley	10/17
Jacie Duncan	10/19
Bobby Rawlings	10/23
Jay Dittmann	10/24
Roger Formelius	10/24
Marianna Busch	10/28
Jenna Conner	10/29
Heather Baker	10/30
Cora Gillespie	10/30
Andrew Dittmann	10-31

October 2021

◀ Sep 2021	October 2021					Nov 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning 4:00pm Blessing of the Animals	4	5	6 11am Bible Study 5:30pm Mary Martha Circle Meeting 6pm Choir	7	8 9am Quilters	9 9am Waco Calligraphy Guild
10 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	11 10am Grace Circle 4:30pm Kathrine Luther Circle	12	13 11am Bible Study 6pm Choir	14	15 9am Quilters	16
17 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	18	19	20 11am Bible Study 6pm Choir	21 6:30pm Stephen Ministry CE	22 9am Quilters	23
24 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	25	26 10am Fellowship for Single Women	27 11am Bible Study 6pm Choir	28	29 9am Quilters	30
31 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning						