

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

**January 2022**

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

**For Ourselves**

Dear Beloved Community,

I don't know what kind of year 2021 was for you, but I know that for many it was one of the most difficult in a long time. And as many will approach this time with the motivation to take on resolutions, and aim for self-fulfillment, my prayer for you is that you will focus on what you need, rather than what the world, society, or even those closest to you tell you to need. With this new year may you continue to know Emmanuel, God with us, walking with you.

A prayer for the New Year:

God of the past, God of the present, God of the future years,  
we are facing a new year.

We celebrate with joy the good times from last year  
and the memories that will delight us for years to come.

We reflect on the hardships, the unexpected changes, the setbacks,  
and we give thanks for your presence in our struggles.

Be with us in the year ahead.

Give us the courage to face any challenges.

Give us love and laughter to lighten our days.

Give us measures of peace, light, and hope  
that we may share these gifts with others.

Help us to make meaningful resolutions.

Help us to listen more carefully to one person in our family.

Help us to get to know one person better in our church family.

Help us to grow in one aspect of our Christian faith.

Help us to put our faith into practice each day.

Remind us that with every step we take into the new year,  
you go with us. Amen.

Thank you for your generosity throughout the holiday season, and especially for the staff Christmas gift this year. Jon and I are also grateful for the time we had with our family and friends over the holidays. It is truly a blessing to be in ministry with all of you. May the peace of Christ continue to surround you into the new year.

From Sha

Dear St. Matthew family, thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. Thank you for welcoming me and my family. You are a blessing in so many ways and I'm honored to serve this community.

From Nate:

Thank you for being so welcoming and encouraging through my first year at Saint Matthew. I am grateful for everyone making me feel so welcome and especially grateful for the Christmas gift I received. I am genuinely glad to be a part of this ministry and wish you all the best through the holidays and throughout next year.

### 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 December 13, 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 \$350,000.
- Reviewed the Audit report for 2020.
- Discussed and set Council Meeting dates for 2022.
- Discussed sign-up for the 2022 Opening Devotionals.

*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.



The guest musicians for St. Matthew's Advent services were just fabulous! We applaud you!

### W-ELCA NEWS

**The last general meeting of 2021** was held on Saturday, November 20th in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker was Jill Barrow from Historic Waco. She gave a wonderful presentation on the Bold Women of Waco and the history behind these famous women. The program was followed by a luncheon and business meeting. The following women were elected as officers for 2022. President: Linda Heyde, Vice President: Paula Jenson, Secretary: Peggy Tooker, Treasurer: Kim Browne, Mission Action: Alaine Copeland, Mission Community: Cynthia Tingle, Mission Growth: Jean Moeller, (Paula Jenson had to resign her position a few weeks after this general meeting and Carol Linda has graciously stepped in.) The budget for 2022 was also approved. We held a fund raiser by auctioning off a quilt made by our St. Matthew quilters. We raised \$200 towards this project. The quilt was won by Betty Fornelius. Our Thankoffering for this year totaled \$425. We also voted on Bold Women of St. Matthew for 2022. This honor will be given to four ladies this year instead of two. (We missed out on this last year due to the pandemic so we thought we could honor four ladies for 2022.) **Bold Women Sunday will be held on February 27th.** 2022 yearbooks have been printed and are available in the copy room. If you are listed as a Bible study leader, please note that Pastor Kelsey will conduct leader training on the last Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. Our Synod Virtual Convention was held on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Linda Heyde was voted in as our Synod Treasurer. She has previously served on the Synod Board for three years.

Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

- General meeting: **Saturday, February 12th, 10:30** in the Fellowship Hall Taco Soup Luncheon Program The Power of Sleep - Joel Delaney, Guest Speaker
- HOT Conference Spring Gathering: **Saturday, April 2** at St. John, Bartlett (More information to follow in the coming weeks)

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 Monday at 4:30 p.m. and the Grace Circle will meet monthly on the second Monday at 10:00 a.m.

### 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 Supervision** meets on the second Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room. We'll meet this month on **January 9<sup>th</sup>**.



### **Stephen Ministry Continuing Education**

The Stephen Ministry continuing education group will meet on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

### Fellowship for Single Women

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Our next meeting will be January 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at Cafe Cappuccino. For any questions, please contact Rosemary Fielder ([fielderatwaco@aol.com](mailto:fielderatwaco@aol.com)).



### 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.

### 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. If you have 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, Rita Bruer, Weldon Howell, Janet Rawlings, Jan Richter, Imadean Peterson, and Cora Gillespie.

## Sunday School

Starting January 9th, Eric Brewer (a doctoral student in Baylor's Department of Religion) will lead a six week series on the remarkable people from church history during the Sunday school hour. If you want to learn more about the history of Christianity, gain fresh perspectives on how you can love and serve God, or simply hear stories about interesting people, then this will be a great series for you.

## Those for whom prayer is requested:

Rodney Roller, Patrick Dalton, Kylie Kubicki, Ralph Sparks, Wanda Brinegar, Lorraine Mclane, Elaine Mclane, Betty, Matthew, James Hurst, Janice Byrd (Terry Roller)  
Roger Sanders (Clydine Arthur)  
Jimmy Moore, Laura Burney (Ross & Kim Browne)  
Philip Reyna (Mary Koon)  
Joyce Collins (Jean Moeller)  
Joann Bottoms, Sharron & John Collier (Mary Herring)  
Ty Croford (Linda Stanford)  
Vicki Terry (Carol Linda)  
Kathy Neill (Bradley Linda)  
Bill Mosley, Rodney Castilleja, Chris Mosley, Carson Wiltse (Paula Jenson)  
Dale Pommer (Sharon Peterson)  
Paula Barfield Unger (Rilla Vieregge)  
Pastor Kenneth and Paula Moerbe, 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, Kris Braswell (Colleen Early)  
Jinnie Lynn Washmon, Jeremiah, Aurora, (Sue & Del Hensel)  
Don Carlson (Farrel Bolte)  
Marilyn Michalka (Meridith Sellers)

## We express our Christian Sympathy to:

† the family and friends of Larry Warenke, and to the family and friends of Scarlet Walker.



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.

## January Birthdays

Michael Frey	4
Shelly Jasek	4
Imadean Peterson	5
Megan Stanford	8
Chad Johnson	11
Roger Fornelius	15
Teri Vickrey	15
Cynthia Tingle	16
Macoy Umberger	16
Kirk Krause	19
Brenda Henry	20
Paul Dittmann	21
Hayden Stanford	22
Pilar Rodriguez-Larson	22
Clay Sellers	23
Katye Stanford	23
Paul Swanson	23
Cameron Vickrey	24
Bill Martin	27
Dana Bush	31

**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.

# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	3	4	5 11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Mary Martha Circle 6:00 pm Choir	6	7 9:00am Quilters	8 5:00pm Waco Calligraphy Guild
9 8:30am Stephen Ministry Supervision 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	10 10:00am Grace Circle 4:30pm Katherine Luther Circle	11	12 11:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Choir	13	14 9:00am Quilters	15
16 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	17	18	19 11:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Choir	20 6:30pm Stephen Ministry CE	21 9:00am Quilters	22
23 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	24	25 10:00am Fellowship for Single Women	26 11:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Choir	27	28 9:00am Quilters	29
30 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	31					

