

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

May 2022

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Events Ahead

Dear St. Matthew Community,

As we have begun to reach a level of “normal” that we haven’t felt for a while, we are left asking the question where do we go from here? What does it mean for us to lean into the future as a community and where is God calling us?

To begin to address and answer some of these questions St. Matthew will be participating in a pilot program called The Nourishing Vocation Project. This new project is funded by Lily Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative. St. Matthew will be in a cohort with other ELCA churches of all kinds who are also in a discernment process of discovering who they are and what gifts they have to share with the community. Since discernment doesn’t happen overnight, this program occurs over two years and we will start in June.

Through immersion in an ongoing, biblically-centered practice of vocational discernment, participants deepen their understanding of God’s call through their life and work so that they can thrive. This practice guides both personal vocational discernment and congregational discernment related to five critical contextual questions impacting the church today. Over four project phases, this discernment-action-reflection model will support on-going implementation, adaptation, and evaluation.

As part of this project, we will have 5-7 people serve as Congregational Vocational Ministers. The Congregational Vocation Ministers (CVM’s) form a Community of Practice within each congregation to nourish vocation within their own lives and to nourish vocation within the life of the congregation. CVM’s also participate in a Community of Practice with representatives from other project congregations, to share experiences and enrich their own personal and congregational discernment and practices. If this is something that sounds exciting to you, and you can commit to virtual meetings once a month and some personal reflection and reading, please reach out to Pastor Kelsey for more details.

As we know things can change so quickly, and with that, it really is an exciting time to be in the church. The Holy Spirit is certainly blowing here at St. Matthew and I can’t wait to walk alongside of you and discern where it is taking us.

In the joy of the Holy Spirit
Pastor Kelsey

Regarding Masks:

COVID-19 Community Levels are a new tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.

The community level for COVID-19 in McLennan County is currently Green. Masks are *not* required.

**Council Meeting Highlights****April 21, 2022**

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

Members absent: None

- The Balance in the checking account at the end of the month was \$284,074.13
- Planning is underway for a pictorial directory. Life Youch no longer does church directories. We are working on developing one in house.
- Painting has been completed in the fellowship hall and flooring is to begin soon.
- Approved the participation of St. Matthew in the Nourshing Vocation Project.

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.

**W-ELCA NEWS**

The Heart of Texas (H.O.T.) Conference Spring Gathering was held on Saturday, April 2 at St. John Lutheran Church in Bartlett from 9:00 - 2:00. The Theme was "Anchored in God's Love" and our guest speaker was Priscilla Hale from Frisco. There were over 70 women in attendance and we had nine ladies from St. Matthew attend! As part of our meeting, we held a memorial service for all the women who passed away the last two years from our conference. Ten women were honored from St. Matthew. We also elected an Assistant Coordinator and a Financial Secretary for our Conference. As part of our Love Offering we will be donating money towards the Water Well Project (Living Waters International). This is an ongoing fundraiser by the NTNL Women of the ELCA and we are very close to reaching our goal of \$5,000.

St. Matthew W-ELCA's **next General meeting will be held on Saturday, May 14th at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** This will be a brunch. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Jaylie Breckenhauer who will talk about the prevention of falling and how to get up from a fall. **Hope to see you there.**

Also, please mark your calendar now for our **Synod Fall Retreat.** It will be held on **October 7-8** and the women of St. Matthew will be hosting it! Our guest speaker will be Karen Porter who has spoken at our conference before. She is a delight! Her theme will be based on one of her books "I'll Bring the Chocolate : Satisfying a Woman's Cravings for Friendship and Faith." I hope we can all work together to make sure this retreat will be successful and enjoyable!

Please don't forget that Pastor Kelsey will be giving **Bible study preparation** for our Circle leaders. It will be held on the last Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. **If you are scheduled to be the leader for the following month, please let Pastor know if you will be attending.**

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



Bible Study will resume on May 4th at 11:00 a.m.

College Scholarships



The Scholarship Committee at St. Matthew Lutheran Church is **accepting applications** for college scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year. A scholarship application form is available on the St. Matthew website. **All completed application forms and official transcripts should be submitted by June 3, 2022.** 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.

2022 Art as Worship

The Fine Arts Committee would like to announce that the theme for the 2022 Art as Worship exhibit will be WILDERNESS. More information about submitting your artistic response to this theme can be found at www.fineartsministry.blogspot.com. The opening gala is currently scheduled for Saturday, November 12 from 6:30 p.m- 9 p.m.



St. Matthew Stephen Ministry

I imagine that most of you know that our congregation has a Stephen Ministry Program but I am betting that most of you don't really fully understand the services we are able to provide. Well, you are in luck because this will enlighten you.

Of course we continue to provide our services to this congregation's shut-ins, bringing them communion, praying with them and providing hope and friendship. This a very important part of our church's ministry.

However there is so much more to Stephen Ministry that we would love to be able to share.

Every adult at one time or another needs a non-judgmental person to talk with; someone who will really actively listen and not judge. We all have difficult times, difficult decisions to make, or difficult choices to consider and it could be very helpful to have an objective person sharing these stressful times with you. Stephen Ministers are trained in the skills necessary to do that and confidentiality is an extremely important cornerstone of our ministry. We do not provide counseling but we are trained in helping people through difficult times in an uplifting Christian manner. Examples of issues we can assist people with include relationship problems, worries about finances or jobs, pending retirement or other major life changes, loneliness, stress, long term trauma, confusion about life goals and many more.

The Stephen Ministry relationship can be an on-going one but it can also be useful for just one or two visits if that is what is desired.

We are available to this congregations and their families and we are ready and willing to help! Please feel free to reach out to any of the Stephen Ministers whose names and phone numbers are listed below:

St. Matthew's Active Stephen Ministers as of 2/15/22
(cell phone numbers)

Bill Abright	254-652-4053
Alaine Copeland	254-744-9177
Sally Engelbrecht	254-723-6543
Carol Linda	254-722-0280
Beth Pristash	254-666-8173 Home
Meridith Sellers	254-716-2416
Peggy Tooker	254-717-5750



Stephen Ministry Supervision meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00p.m. in the conference room. We'll meet this month on **May 19th**.

Stephen Ministry Continuing Education

The Stephen Ministry continuing education group will meet on Thursday, April 19th.

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 on May 24th at 10:00 a.m. at Cafe Cappuccino.

For any questions, please contact

Rosemary Fielder

(fielderatwaco@aol.com).



women's
fellowship

Holy Land Trip

Don't forget to register for the Holy Land trip, October 17th-29th. If you are interested in joining us, you can sign up at:

<https://www.stcecilia.co/registration>

Friday Quilters Meetings

Friday Quilters meet 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.

Donations to St. Matthew

We are always grateful when people think of church when wanting to donate items that you no longer use or need. As work has been done on the fellowship hall we are going to work to keep the space as organized and as tidy as we can. If you ever have something like furniture, lamps, etc. please contact the president of the church council or Pastor Kelsey before bringing your donation to church.



QUILTING GRG

Blessing Box

Thank you for your continued donations to the Blessing Box. It is often the case that we will fill it one day and it is nearly empty the next. We are certainly filling a need in the community. As we begin to enter into the summer months, please be mindful of food selections for in the box. Water and hygiene products are also always needed.

Thank You!

We had a truly amazing Holy Week here at St. Matthew. Thank you to all of those who volunteered, and put in long hours during that week to make sure everything went smoothly. The Great Three Days were certainly Spirit filled at St. Matthew, and I can't wait until next year. - Pastor Kelsey

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

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 Linda Stanford, Council President.

**Members with Prayer Concerns:**

Steve Jenson, Agnes Decker, Clydine Arthur, Lauren Roller, Elnora Schwake, John Linda, Ty Henrichs,

Larry Henrichs, Tammy Vickrey, Stephanie Partin, Rita Bruer, Weldon Howell, Jan Richter, Cora Gillespie, Jean Moeller, Janet Rawlings.

Those for whom prayer is requested:

Melanie, Charlotte Sperfslage (Beth Pristash)
 Rodney Roller, Patrick Dalton, Kylie Kubicki, Ralph Sparks, Wanda Brinegar, Lorraine Mclane, Elaine Mclane, Betty, Matthew, James Hurst, Janice Byrd, Rich Buchner (Terry Roller)
 Roger Sanders (Clydine Arthur)
 Jimmy Moore, Laura Burney (Ross & Kim Browne)
 Philip Reyna (Mary Koon)
 Joyce Collins, Lou Brazile (Jean & Bill Moeller)
 Joann Bottoms, Jeff Mcneff, John P. Collier (Mary Herring)
 Ty Croford, Billy Stanford (Linda Stanford)
 Vicki Terry (Carol Linda)
 Kathy Neill, Virginia Freitag (Bradley Linda)
 Bill Mosley, Wendell Mosley, Rodney Castilleja (Paula Jenson)
 Dale Pommer (Sharon Peterson)
 Paula Barfield Unger (Rilla Vieregge)
 Pastor Kenneth, Dusty Engelholm, Debbie Vonaek, Greg Schwake (Elnora Schwake)
 Tricia Fabiani (Doris Akard)
 Lee Family (Anna Steggerda)
 Patsy & Curtis Forrester (Bill & Diane Jones)
 Frank Simons, Kris Braswell (Colleen Early)

Don Carlson (Farrel Bolte)
 Marilyn Michalka (Meridith Sellers)
 Leonard, Janell, and Rose Janke (Arlene Schwarz)
 Daniel Cockrell (Denise Masters)
 Rhonda Ownens, Terry Humphrey, Linda Burkett,
 Sue Hensel (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	5/03
Cory Stanford	5/04
Sarah Schwieger	5/05
Judy Schwieger	5/06
Mary Krause	5/08
Maggie Johnson	5/10
Carter Towers	5/11
Alaine Copeland	5/13
Sharon Peterson	5/13
Bobby Zimmerman	5/13
Ed Taylor	5/16
Tammy Bush	5/17
Jo Von Rosenberg	5/17
Thomas Vanderkinter	5/19
Shawna White	5/22
Linda Stanford	5/23
Bea Ronnevik	5/26
Max Towers	5/27
Gus Hengst	5/29

May Anniversaries

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

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.

May 2022

◀ April

June ▶

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

