

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

August 2022

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

As many of you know Jon and I recently bought our first home. The process took less time than expected. Things were moving quickly (they have to in this market), and I don't know if we were fully prepared for everything we were getting into. We knew that we needed to be out of our rental by a certain time, and were in a position to buy a house. But since then, our lives have felt somewhat chaotic. Jon started a new job at the library and is in the final stages of his dissertation, and for me the move was triggering mentally. It was hard to focus at work. I know that have all had moments in our lives where things have felt chaotic or that we didn't have a handle on things. So many times we try to compartmentalize there is only so much of that we can do before we begin to break. I came across a wonderful poem by Jan Richardson for a time as this and I wanted to share with all of you.

Blessing in the Chaos

To all that is chaotic
in you,
let there come silence.

Let there be
a calming
of the clamoring,
a stilling
of the voices that
have laid their claim
on you,
that have made their
home in you,

that go with you
even to the
holy places
but will not
let you rest,
will not let you
hear your life
with wholeness
or feel the grace
that fashioned you.

Let what distracts you
cease.

Let what divides you
cease.

Let there come an end
to what diminishes
and demeans,
and let depart
all that keeps you
in its cage.

Let there be
an opening
into the quiet
that lies beneath
the chaos,
where you find
the peace
you did not think
possible
and see what shimmers
within the storm.

Regarding COVID 19:

As of Friday, July 22nd, the McLennan County Health District has indicated the community risk level for COVID-19 is **HIGH**.

We encourage you to wear a mask indoors and around others, especially around anyone high risk or unvaccinated. If you feel unwell stay home, and get tested if you notice symptoms of COVID-19



Council Meeting Highlights
July

- The Council meeting for July was postponed until August to accommodate scheduling conflicts.

Regarding group meetings...

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.

Safety Training - August 1

There will be a safety training presented by the Waco Crime Prevention Unit at St. Matthew at 6:00pm. This session is open to anyone at St. Matthew who wants to learn more about safety in our building. The focus of the evening will be on safety measures during active attack situations. If you have any questions please reach out to council president, Linda Stanford, ldstanford68@yahoo.com.



The **Finance Committee** will have a committee meeting on **Thursday, August 4, at 6:30 p.m.** at church.

Welcome New Members - August 7

We will be welcoming new members in worship on August 7th. **Immediately following the service we will have a welcome reception and potluck.** You are invited to bring a favorite food dish to share. Drinks will be provided.



Let us rejoice as we get to know our new siblings in Christ:

- Eric, Mayumi, Wesley, Isaac, & Margaret Brewer
- Karla Bullock
- Pete Christensen
- Carol & Frank Drew
- Greg & Christi Epperly
- Corey, Rebecca, & Ana Heidt
- Nathan Kirks
- Matthew, Joanna, Xander, & Nathan Lee
- Robert & Linda Vergamini



W-ELCA NEWS



All women of St. Matthew are invited to the next General Meeting which will be held on Saturday, August 13th at 10:30 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Laynie Miller who is a Master Gardener. She will be talking about container planting and will also speak about herb planting. A salad luncheon and short business meeting will follow. Please plan on attending and bring a friend!



Also important information will be given out that day about the upcoming **Synod Fall Retreat** which will be held at St. Matthew on **October 7-8**. There will also be a sign up sheet for those who would like to volunteer their time towards this gathering. The cost to attend is \$70 BUT you may apply for a scholarship of \$50 towards that amount. Registration forms, information about the Retreat and scholarship applications will be available at our General Meeting. If you cannot attend the General Meeting you may get this Retreat information from Linda Heyde.

Peggy Tooker will be **sewing school kits** for Lutheran World Relief. If anyone is interested in helping her with this, please contact Peggy. We did get a grant of \$250.00 towards the purchase of school supplies from Thrivent.



Bracken Scholarship Recognition and Backpack Blessing August 14

Recognition for Bracken Scholarship recipients will take place in worship on **August 14th**. As we congratulate our students continuing on in their higher ed journeys we will **also take time to bless the backpacks of all who will be starting school in the fall**. Students and teachers of all ages are invited to bring a backpack, lunchbox, school bag, etc., to be blessed as the new academic year begins.

Bible Study



The Bible Study group meets every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. Currently, we are studying the book of Romans.

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- 9:00 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 is 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 Meetings will **NOT** be meeting over the summer. Supervision and CE will resume on **September 15th** at 6:00 p.m.

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

Fellowship for Single Women

women's
fellowship

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Our next meeting will be on August 23rd at 10:00 a.m. at Cafe Cappuccino. For any questions, please contact Rosemary Fielder (fielderatwaco@aol.com).

Holy Land Trip Postponed

While there has been some interest in the Holy Land trip, due to the lack of sign-ups the trip dates have been pushed back to February/March of 2023. By moving the trip we hope to gain more interest within St. Matthew and First Lutheran churches as well as expand the trip to other churches in our conference and the synod. If you have any questions please reach out to Pastor Kelsey.

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.



QUILTING GROUP

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.


Blessing Box

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

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.

Thank you from Pat Gorton

Thank you friends of St. Matthew for your presence, voice, and monetary donation to the Fellowship Hall Fund! You were quite generous! A special thanks to Peggy Tooker and Rilla Vieregge for supervising the kitchen. The magnificent cake by Janet Roller was scrumptious! Blessings,

- Deaconess Pat Gorton

Thank you from Bobby Rawlings

We wanted to thank the St. Matthew's family for all of your prayers, cards, phone calls, and kindnesses after Janet's death. It is such a blessing to have such a caring congregation. The service to celebrate her life was so beautiful and we would like to thank everyone who made it so.

-Bobby Rawlings and Family

**Members with Prayer Concerns:** Steve

Jenson, 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, Florence Anderson.

**Those for whom prayer is requested:**

Melanie, Charlotte Sperflage (Beth
Pristash)
Rodney Roller, Patrick Dalton, Kylie
Kubicki, Ralph Sparks, Wanda Brinegar,
Lorraine McLane, Elaine McLane, Betty,
Matthew, James Hurst, Carolyn Hurst,
Janice Byrd, Rich Buchner, Barbara
Bradshaw, Clint Hancock, Jerry Mars, Jim

Guest (Terry Roller)

Roger Sanders (Clydine Arthur)

Jimmy Moore, Laura Burney (Ross & Kim Browne)

Philip Reyna (Mary Koon)

Lou Brazile (Jean Moeller)

Joann Bottoms, Jeff Mcneff, John P. Collier (Mary
Herring)

Ty Croford, Billy Stanford (Linda Stanford)

Vicki Terry (Carol Linda)

Kathy Neill (Bradley Linda)

Bill Mosley, Rodney Castilleja (Paula Jenson)

Dale Pommer (Sharon Peterson)

Paula Barfield Unger (Rilla Vieregg)

Pastor Kenneth Moerbe, Dusty Engelholm, Jason

Lees Copeland (Elnora Schwake)

Tricia Fabiani (Doris Akard)

Lee Family (Anna Steggerda)

Patsy & Curtis Forrester (Bill & Diane Jones)

Frank Simons, Ruthie 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 Owens, Terry Humphrey, Linda Burkett,

Mark Alexander (Denise Self)

Colter Clenents (Abrey Garret)

Saul Guajardo (Ashley Jenson)

August Birthdays

DeAnna Toten Beard	8/02
Daniel Evens	8/03
Donna Gustafson	8/04
Chelsea Smith	8/05
Meredith Sellers	8/07
Elisabeth Vanderkinter	8/07
Jerry Cureton	8/14
Allie Schmedthorst	8/15
Cynthia Frey	8/22
Ray Baker, Jr	8/24
Lauren Roller	8/24
Bill Gillespie	8/25

August Anniversaries

Joe & Cindy Hutyra	8/01
David & Deborah Evans	8/02
Gus & Carol Gustafson	8/03
Phil & Carolyn Van Auken	8/11
Roxann & Charles White	8/19
Lanah & Orien Bagley	8/21
Ricky & Brenda Henry	8/23
Larry & Helen Henrichs	8/26
Tye & Crystal Stanford	8/30
Ray & Heather Baker	8/31

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.



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.

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				1

◀ July

September ▶

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9:30am Worship Service

10:00am Grace Circle
4:30pm Katherine Luther Circle

11:00am Bible Study
6:00pm Choir

9:00am Quilters

10:30am WELCA Board Meeting

9:30am Worship Service

11:00am Bible Study
6:00pm Choir

9:00am Quilters

9:30am Worship Service

11:00am Bible Study
6:00pm Choir

9:00am Quilters

9:30am Worship Service

11:00am Bible Study
6:00pm Choir

9:00am Quilters

9:30am Worship Service

11:00am Bible Study
6:00pm Choir

9:00am Aggie Moms Meeting
10:00am Fellowship for Single Women

9:30am Worship Service

11:00am Bible Study
6:00pm Choir

9:00am Quilters