

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

November 2022

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



But while the son was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him... And they began to celebrate.
+ Luke 15:20, 24

One of Jesus' most famous parables is usually called, "The Parable of the Prodigal Son." But this is actually a parable designed to teach us about the merciful, generous nature of God. And to the extent, that "prodigal" which means extravagant or over-the-top, is better applied to the father in the story.

The son comes home hoping for a modest meal in exchange for an apology. Before he can say a word, however, his father is lavishing him with love and making preparations for a party. For the prodigal parent, only a splendid celebration will do.

Jesus says that God – the Prodigal Parent – puts grace into action this way: welcoming us home even when we don't deserve it; forgiving us completely before we can even ask; and treating just the sight of us as cause for extravagant joy.

At our best, this sort of celebratory welcome is what St. Matthew is all about. Welcoming visitors and regulars alike into the beautiful choreography of worship and celebration. We strive to be a community of joy – prodigal, extravagant, and free – for anyone who longs for a meal, an embrace, and the reassurance that they are not alone.

This welcome is about repairing the world through love, one celebration at a time. That's "Grace in Action." You can hear it in the language we use: we celebrate Communion, celebrate Baptism, celebrate Easter, celebrate Christmas, and celebrate Confirmation.

And speaking of celebration: we will celebrate Giving Sunday on November 13th. We will turn in our commitment cards for the year and participate in this simple act of putting grace into action together.

Grace and joy,
Pastor Kelsey

Regarding COVID 19:

As of Friday, October 21, 2022 the McLennan County Health District has indicated the community risk level for COVID-19 is LOW.

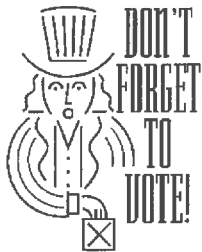
If you feel unwell stay home, and get tested if you notice symptoms of COVID-19

**Council Meeting Highlights**
October 10th 2022

- As of the end of September, the total of the church checking account is \$234,432.10.
- The directory has been sent for printing and is in the final proofing stages.
- Giving Sunday has been scheduled for November 13.
- Seminarian Jessica Nipp will be going to Malone one Sunday a month to lead worship and preach with the congregation there.
- St. Matthew will be taking part in a Toy Drive for Mission Waco
- The safety committee met and made suggestions for immediate changes

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.

**November 8th****Grace in Action**

Over the next few weeks you are invited to reflect on how God generously puts grace into action from home-making, to celebrating, to bridge building, and acts of mercy - and how we, Children of God created in the image of God, can do the same. Take time over these next few weeks to practice extending grace to those who need it, be aware when grace shows up in your own life when you didn't expect it, and finally, pause and give thanks to God, that God's grace and mercy are new each day. We will celebrate God's grace together on **November 13th** as we turn in our giving commitments for 2023, and look toward where God's grace will lead us into the future.

Called Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, **November 20**, 2022, we will have a Called Congregational meeting after Church to discuss changes to our Standing Committees. This year, the Committee on Committees was created to study our current Committee situation and to make suggestions to make our committee system better. This Committee on Committees was made up of Bill Jones, Brad Linda, Brenda Henry, Stephanie Abright, Pastor Kelsey and Linda Stanford. After many meetings, the Committee has come up with some very good suggestions. These proposed changes will be discussed at the Called Congregational Meeting on November 20 and we will vote whether to implement them.

**W-ELCA NEWS****NEW DATE!**

Our final General Meeting of the year will be held on **Saturday, November**

5th at 10:30. (Please note: a **date change** that was originally scheduled for November 19th) This will be a business meeting which will include: election of officers, voting on Bold Women; approval of next year's budget and a discussion on where to direct our end of the year monies. A salad luncheon will follow. Please plan on attending this **VERY** important meeting!

The women of St. Matthew will be celebrating our annual “Thankoffering” service on Sunday, **November 13th**. The generous donations given on this day will support our ongoing ministries in justice and advocacy work, training and development of elected leaders throughout our organization, and the administration of our grants and scholarship programs. Making a Thankoffering is gratitude in action and the Women of the ELCA is grateful to you for taking that action! If you can help with communion, ushering or readings, please contact Carol Linda. She will be coordinating this event.

A **big congratulations** to our quilters, Peggy Tooker, Kim Browne, Betty Fornelius and her good friend Gloria, Carol Linda, Edna Dietrich, Teresa Bancale, Arlene Schwarz and Jean Bush for making **144 quilts** for Lutheran World Relief. **Amazing!!** We will also be shipping 37 school kits. Huge thank you to Peggy Tooker for heading up her **backpack sewing** team which included Betty Fornelius and Kim Browne.

Thank you ladies for all of your hard work!!!



Bible Study



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



Stephen Ministry Meetings

The next Stephen Ministry Supervision and CE will be on **November 17th** at 6:00pm.

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



2022 Art as Worship



Art as Worship is coming up soon! The theme is **WILDERNESS**, and if you know of any artists who would

like to participate, please have them go to www.fineartsministry.blogspot.com for all of the artist information. The **opening gala is Saturday, November 12th from 6:30 p.m.—9 p.m.** We will again have our hallways full of artwork, but this year the artwork will also extend into the fellowship hall! You will be able to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine, and live music all evening, so invite your friends for a thoroughly enjoyable time of fellowship. Contact Jeanne Dittmann or DeAnna Totten Beard if you have any questions about the exhibit, and contact Beth Pristash if you would like to help with the refreshments.

Fellowship for Single Women



women's fellowship

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Our next meeting will be on November 22nd at 10:00 a.m. at Cafe Cappuccino. For any questions, please contact Rosemary Fielder (fielderatwaco@aol.com).

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.

Sunday Learning in November

If you've ever heard or used the phrase “good Samaritan” or “prodigal son,” then you've been touched by the continuing influence of Jesus's parables. And yet these seemingly simple stories often confound us when we really try to understand them. For the next several weeks, Eric Brewer (Ph.D student, Baylor University Department of Religion) will guide us through some of Jesus's most famous parables and equip us with skills to help us read and hear these stories for all their worth. Join us during learning time after the service!

Toy Drive Donations

St. Matthew will be partnering with Mission Waco and other local churches in their annual toy store toy drive. The Christmas Toy Store gives parents the opportunity to pick out toys and gifts for their families, serving over 2,000 kids in Waco. **We will continue to collect toys through the end of November. On November 27th.** St. Matthew will be on the annual Biker Toy Run route to deliver the toys to Central Presbyterian. You can find suggestions for toys below, or check out their Amazon Smile wish list.

https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/lr/3MY5WG6CD9PF0/ref=smi_ext_ink_lcl_cl

Toys and gift items for early infant ages, and toddlers through 12-year-olds. (no teens):

Suggestions include educational toys/games; push & pull toys, assorted riding toys for toddlers, scooters, skateboards, outdoor games, sports balls, electronics, musicals, toy cars & trucks, remote-controlled toys, baby dolls, boxed doll sets, boxed dish sets, play makeup sets, crafts.

New Dates for the Holy Land Trip

The Holy Land – A Biblical Seminar **February 27-March 11 2023**. In partnership with St. Cecilia Tours, First Lutheran in Waco, and some friends at St. Paul Lutheran in Brenham, you will have an opportunity for something life changing, as together we take a trip to The Holy Land. The Bible will come alive as we spend time walking the streets of Jerusalem, take sail on the Sea of Galilee, and explore the humble town of Nazareth. St. Cecilia Tours provide an amazing experience in a way that is much more affordable compared to other tour companies. During our trip we will work with guide and scholar Aviv Herzlich, who is a native of Israel. Aviv is highly knowledgeable about Scripture, Christian doctrine, and the history and current situation of Israel. He is also a compelling communicator, who leads with kindness, compassion, and humor. If you've always wanted to visit the Holy Land, this would be a great trip to take.

Below you will find a QR code to the full brochure.



To register go to <https://www.stcecilia.co/tours> and under registration select Lutheran Church Feb.27-March 11. If you have any questions or need help registering reach out to Pastor Kelsey.

Save the Date

✝ Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, December 4th

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.





Members with Prayer Concerns: Steve Steve Jenson, Clydine Arthur, Lauren Roller, Elnora Schwake, John Linda, Ty Henrichs, Tammy Vickrey, Stephanie Partin, Rita Bruer, Jan Richter, Cora Gillespie, Jean Moeller, Denise Self, Paula Jenson, Cameron, Nathan, and Liam Kirks.

Colter Clenents (Abrey Garret)
Gayla Lantzsch (Del & Sue Hensel)
Carlos Castro (Carlos Castro)
Debbie Evans
Jim Siler (Cynthia Frey)
Crystal Marquez and Family (Maggie Lambring)
Wamous Bailey (Ashley Jenson)



Those for whom prayer is requested:

Melanie, Charlotte Sperfslage,
Elizabeth Dale, Locklyn Spence (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, Larry Davis (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, Katy Ann Hunt and her newborn sons (Mary Herring)
Ty Croford, Billy Stanford (Linda Stanford)
Vicki Terry (Carol Linda)
Kathy Neill, Jeff Ford (Bradley Linda)
Bill & Linda Mosley, Wendell Mosely (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)
Shane Owens, Patti Humphrey (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.

November Birthdays

Lyle Gripp	11/02
Terry Roller	11/05
Ziggy Sellers	11/06
Garrison Nordt	11/10
Gracie Beard	11/14
Aaron Jasek	11/14
Hope Cotner	11/16
Lee Cruse	11/18
Barbara Johnson	11/18
Tim Pristash	11/23
Stacey Vanderkinter	11/24
Gus Gustafson	11/25
Ryan Pederson	11/27
Clydine Arthur	11/28

November Anniversaries

Paul & Norma Swanson	11/06
Mary & Bobby Koon	11/06
Clay & Meridith Sellers	11/08
Jason & Teresa Umberger	11/10
Bobby & Donna Zimmerman	11/10
John & Carol Linda	11/17



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!



November 2022						December ▶	
◀ October	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11:00am NT-NL Deanery 7:00pm Zoom Book Study	2 11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Mary Martha Circle 5:30pm Finance Meeting 6:00pm Choir	3	4 9:00am Quilters	5 10:30am WELCA General Meeting
6 9:30am Worship Service 11:45am Sunday Learning	7		8 9:00am Aggie Moms Meeting 7:00pm Zoom Book Study	9 11:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Choir	10	11 9:00am Quilters	12 9:00am Calligraphy Guild 6:00pm Art As Worship
13 9:30am Thanksoffering Service 11:45am Sunday Learning	14 10:00am Grace Circle 4:30pm Katherine Luther Circle		15 7:00pm Zoom Book Study	16 11:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Choir	17 6:00pm Stephen Ministry Supervision 6:30pm Stephen Ministry CE	18 9:00am Quilters	19
20 9:30am Worship Service 11:45am Sunday Learning	21		22 10:00am Fellowship for Single Women	23 11:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Choir	24	25 9:00am Quilters	26
27 9:30am Worship Service 11:45am Sunday Learning	28		29	30 11:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Choir			