

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

March 2023

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

St. Patrick – “An Apostle of Ireland”

St. Patrick's Day brings to mind everything from wearing green to shamrocks to good luck to party times in bars and street parades. Tradition has it that St. Patrick, the fifth-century Christian who is now the patron saint of Ireland, died on March 17, 461. St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated as a religious holiday in Ireland for 1000 years, and for Irish Catholics, it is considered a Holy Day of Obligation. But who exactly was St. Patrick? Fun fact – Patrick wasn't even Irish.

At the age of 16 Patrick was kidnapped from his home by Irish marauders and taken to Ireland, where he was sold as a slave to a chieftain and forced to herd livestock. After six years of slavery, Patrick escaped to native Britain. Because he believed that his captivity and deliverance were ordained by God, Patrick devoted his life to ministry. While studying for the priesthood, he experienced recurring dreams in which he heard voices say “O holy youth, come back to Erin, and walk once more among us.” He convinced his superiors to let him return to Ireland in 432, not to seek revenge for injustice but to seek reconciliation and to spread his faith. Over the next thirty years, Patrick established churches and monastic communities across Ireland. When he was not engaged in the work of spreading the Christian faith, Patrick spent his time praying in his favorite places of solitude and retreat. – From Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals.

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, doesn't mean we honor some green superhero (fun fact, early depictions of Patrick show him in blue), but we lift up the courage of St. Patrick to return to Ireland. We reflect on in his dedication and courage to spread the Christian faith. We also recognize that St. Patrick was a deeply spiritual person, connecting with God in many ways. Legend has it, that it was St. Patrick who used the Shamrock as a way to explain the Holy Trinity (but even that has its limitations) to pagan Irish people.

As a way to express his faith in God and his understanding of the Trinity, St. Patrick is attributed with writing a famous prayer. Though it is actually very lengthy, this prayer below is what is used most often within church settings.

Prayer of St. Patrick

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.

Regarding COVID 19:

Currently, 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 Notes

- The balance in the checking account at the end of January was \$229,805.94
- Reviewed lists of projects as presented by the property committee.
- Approved the recommendation from the endowment committee regarding CDs.

**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.

**W-ELCA NEWS****February General Meeting**

Thanks to all for attending the meeting. We enjoyed fellowship and a wonderful Italian lunch. Our guest speaker was Lauren DaSilva, the Food Security Program Manager at Baylor. These are difficult times for many people, especially students. The Baylor Food Pantry helps the Baylor Bears who are in need of assistance in obtaining food.

2023 WELCA Taco Soup Fundraiser

We raised \$709.00 from the fund raiser. Thank you to all who purchased taco soup.

Bold Women

Bold Women's Day celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It is all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.

We are truly blessed to have so many caring and loving women each making the world a better place. The voting is closed and the 2023 Bold Women will be honored on **March 5**.

H.O.T. Conference Spring Gathering

All women are invited to the Heart of Texas Conference Spring Gathering which **will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Killeen, on Saturday, March 25 from 9:00 - 1:00**. The theme is "The Lord is My Rock" and the guest speaker will be Rev. Deb McCann. Cost is \$20 which includes breakfast goodies and lunch. There will be a silent auction and a quilt raffle! **Each participant is asked to bring a canned good for the community pantry.** Registration forms are available in the WELCA mailbox or from Linda Heyde. **Deadline to register is March 1st.** If you have any questions, please contact Linda Heyde. We will be carpooling.

NTNL-SWO Convention

Everyone is invited to attend the NTNL-SWO Convention to be held October 13 – 14 at Grace Lutheran in Carrollton, TX. Additional details available as we get closer to the convention date.

2023 WELCA Yearbook

Remember to pick up your WELCA yearbook. Copies are in the WELCA mailbox in the Mail Room. Again, a huge thank you to Peggy Tooker for handling this project.

Stock the Shelves Challenge for Lent

In February the WELCA women held their general meeting with guest speaker Lauren DaSilva. Lauren works as the Food Security Program Manager at Baylor University. It was eye opening to learn about the hundreds of students that rely on the Baylor food pantry weekly, and even more disheartening to learn that some students often need to make the decision on whether they eat that week, pay bills, or buy books. In January alone, the pantry served 270 students more in two weeks than they had served the entire spring of last year. In the spring of 2022, the pantry served 260 students, and in the fall of 2022 the pantry served 550 students - 50% of whom are international students. Currently, the pantry is on track to serve 1,000 students this semester.

Many at the meeting were left asking what can we do? Introducing our Stock the Shelves Challenge.

Each week during Lent we will be tasked with stocking the shelves with specific items (see below). To make it more fun, if we as a congregation meet the goals each week, following worship on Easter Sunday the children will have an opportunity to throw water balloons or pies (kid's choice) at Pastor Kelsey.

- March 5: Peanut butter or jelly (75)
- March 12: Bread or Tortillas (75)
- March 19: Spaghetti or spaghetti sauce (75)
- March 26: Chewy or crunch granola bars (75)
- April 2: Toothpaste or toothbrushes (75)



Unfinished: Out of the Depths, a midweek Lent Series

Jonah walks a Lenten path. Like all human beings, he is prone to wander from his Creator in favor of determining the shape and scope of his own future.



This temptation is especially powerful when God calls us to take on risky ventures, travel to strange places, and confront things inside of us that prevent us from seeing one another as God does. God meets us in those liminal, Lent-like spaces when we find ourselves somewhere between trust and doubt, courage and fear, anger and empathy.

Together with First Lutheran we will have midweek services during Lent on Wednesdays at 5:30pm beginning March 1 at St. Matthew. Throughout these 30-40 minute services we will explore the larger-than-life story of Jonah. Like all human beings, Jonah is prone to wander from his Creator in favor of determining the shape and scope of his own future. You are invited to enter the story and discover its meaning in your life.



Stephen Ministry Meetings

The Stephen Ministry will now be meeting quarterly instead of monthly. Our next meeting will be on **May 18th**, 2023 at 6:00

p.m.

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

Fellowship for Single Women



We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Our next meeting will be on March 28th 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.



The Friday Quilters want to say a big THANK YOU to all who helped us get our new quilting room set up. To the person who supplied the paint for the walls, to the men who painted the room for us and to the men who installed new lighting in our room (it is wonderful) and to the WELCA group for their donation that enabled us to get new carpet in our room and to the person who worked with the carpet company to get it installed. We appreciate each and every one who worked to get this project completed.

If you are in the building stop by and see where we are (Room 115). If you are interested in learning more about our quilting and where the quilts are distributed, come by some Friday morning and visit with us. If you have any good used bed sheets that you need to dispose of, drop them by the quilt room, we can use them for backs of our quilts. Also we accept donations of fabric.

Again thank you all for your assistance.

Clydine Arthur Memorial Service

There will be a service for Clydine Arthur at St. Matthew beginning at 11:00am on Saturday, **March 18**. A luncheon and visitation with the family will take place immediately following the service.

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. Water and hygiene products are 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 to, 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 envelope or write it in the memo line of your written check. If you have questions please contact Pastor Kelsey or Linda Stanford, Council President.



Weekly Bible Study

Wednesday bible study not be held during lent midweek services.

Art As Worship

The Fine Arts Committee is excited to announce that this year's Art as Worship theme is **[in]finite**. You can respond to either of the words in this dual theme or both of the words. And please save the date of Saturday, November 11 at 6:30 p.m. for the opening gala event.



Add to
your
prayer
list

Members with Prayer Concerns:

Steve Jenson, Lauren Roller, Elnora Schwake, John Linda, Ty Henrichs, Tammy Vickrey, Stephanie Partin, Rita Bruer, Jan Richter, Cora

Gillespie, Jean Moeller, Denise Self, Cameron, Nathan, Liam Kirks, and Lee Cruse

Our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Clydine Arthur.

Those for whom prayer is requested:

Melanie, Charlotte Sperflage, Elizabeth Dale (Beth Pristash)
Rodney Roller, Patrick Dalton, Kylie Kubicki, Ralph Sparks, Wanda Brinegar, James Hurst, Carolyn Hurst, Janice Byrd, Rich Buchner, Barbara Bradshaw, Jerry Mars, Jim Guest, Emma Cox, Datre, Ralph Sparks (Terry Roller)
Jimmy Moore, Laura Burney (Ross & Kim Browne)
Philip Reyna (Mary Koon)
Lou Brazile (Jean Moeller)
Joann Bottoms, Jeff Mcneff, John P. Collier, Betty Thomas, James (Buddy) Smith (Mary Herring)
Ty Croford, Wanda Stanford, Colten Stanford, Cory Stanford, Truett Noggle (Linda Stanford)
Vicki Terry (Carol Linda)
Kathy Neill, Jeff Ford (Bradley Linda)
Bill & Linda Mosley (Paula Jenson)
Dale Pommer (Sharon Peterson)
Paula Barfield Unger (Rilla Vieregg)
Pastor Kenneth Moerbe, Dusty Engelholm, Jason Lees Copeland (Elnora Schwake)
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)
 Janell, and Rose Janke (Arlene Schwarz)
 Daniel Cockrell (Denise Masters)
 Colter Clenents (Abrey Garret)
 Debbie Evans
 Jim Siler (Cynthia Frey)
 Crystal Marquez and Family (Maggie Lambring)



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.**

March Birthdays

Carolyn Van Auken	3/06
Hans Sellers	3/09
Pat Dietrich	3/11
Rachel Cotner	3/12
Norma Swanson	3/14
Rosemary Fielder	3/15
David Vanderkinter	3/15
Donna Zimmerman	3/22
Robert Cotner	3/25
Beth Pristash	3/26
Kyra White	3/26
Del Hensel	3/28
Helen Henrichs	3/29

March Anniversaries

Billy & Diane Jones	3/5
Sharon & Lyle Gripp	3/6
Bill & Cora Gillespie	3/31