

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

May 2023

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Dear Resurrection People,

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

I know, I know: still? Easter Sunday was April 9, and it's May now. Yet, for centuries, the church has celebrated not simply a day of Easter, but a season of Easter. Easter season lasts for fifty days, even longer than Lent, coming to an end on Pentecost.

If you remember, Lent is a season that lasts forty days. It's a season of repentance, prayer, and fasting. Easter, though, is fifty days of new life, praise, and feasting. The church calendar does this on purpose: we get more days for joy than for gloom.

During Lent, Christians often deliberately deny themselves pleasures that distract from faithful living. During Easter, what if you sought out the life-giving joys that bring you closer to God and your neighbors? Easter invites us to see feasting, celebrating, and simply enjoying life as God's good gifts, even as spiritual practices for this season that is full of life.

If seeing joy as God's good gift to you for fifty whole days seems like it's pushing you beyond your comfort zone, let me make a suggestion: find a three-year-old to serve as your role model. They know the serious business of joy better than anybody. They can teach you how to find joy in dancing to your favorite song, in eating a really good piece of candy, in blowing bubbles, and in seeing a friend.

Jesus told his disciples that he came so that we might have "abundant" life. This Easter season, don't skimp on life. Fill your life with joy, abundant joy. Say Alleluia like you mean it. Christ is alive, and our lives are filled with abundant joy.

In the joy of the Risen Christ,
Pastor Kelsey

Council Notes

- The balance in the checking account at the end of February was \$220,398.33
- Set May 7th as the date for the special congregational meeting.
- Discussed updates on property workday projects.
- Planning for updating the St. Matthew constitution with the model ELCA constitution.
- Discussed loan possibilities for building Repairs.

Called Congregational Meeting

Called Congregational Meeting May 7th
There will be a special called congregational meeting on Sunday, May 7th immediately following Sunday morning worship. At this called meeting we will discuss and vote on the possibility of taking out a loan for the replacement of the shingled roof, as well as replacing the rotted wood and painting on the exterior. In addition, we will vote on changes to bring our constitution up to date with the ELCA model constitution. There will be more details on this meeting in the weeks to come. In the meantime, if you have any questions please reach out to St. Matthew Council President Robert Cotner (Rob.Cotner@gmail.com).

**W-ELCA NEWS****Circle Bible Study Dates**

Mary Martha	5/3 at 5:30 p.m.	Conference Rm.
Grace	5/8 at 10:00 a.m.	Parlor
Katherine Luther	5/8 at 4:30 p.m.	Parlor

May General Meeting

Be sure to mark your calendar for our **May General Meeting on May 6th at 9:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will begin with a brunch and fellowship time followed by **Pastor Kelsey's presentation on her trip to the Holy Land** including pictures and stories. Members are encouraged to bring a guest. After the presentation we will have a short business meeting.

Spring Gathering HOT Conference

Linda Heyde and Rosemary Fielder attended the conference which was held in Killeen. There were about 60 ladies in attendance. The guest speaker was Rev. Deb McCann from Dallas. The silent auction was very successful with \$574.00 generated for the HOT Scholarship Fund. The love offering totaled \$691.45 with half going to the Synod, one fourth going to our HOT Conference Fund and one fourth donated to the Kairos Prison Ministry (the charity chosen by Emmanuel Lutheran Church).

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

Copies of the WELCA yearbook are still available. Check in the WELCA mailbox in the mail room for a copy. Again, a huge thank you to Peggy Tooker for handling this project. She did a great job.

**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.



women's
fellowship

Fellowship for Single Women

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



Scholarship

BRACKEN SCHOLARSHIP: Each year, St. Matthew Lutheran is pleased to award Bracken Scholarships to deserving college students. To qualify for a scholarship, the applicant must be (1) a high school graduating senior who is planning to attend college in the fall; or (2) a college student who will be continuing in the fall. Applications for the Bracken Scholarship will be available from April 16th to May 8th in the church office or online through our website. **The deadline for applications to be submitted will be June 4th.**



Weekly Bible Study

Wednesday bible study will resume on May 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

Wine & Hymns at Valley Mills Vineyard

Together with First Lutheran, we will gather at Valley Mills Vineyard on Sunday May 21 from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Come and enjoy fine wine and fellowship as we gather around conversation and song. Wine will be available for purchase, and soft drinks, water, and a couple of beer selections will be provided. Snacks will be provided for our time together, and the vineyard also has food options available for purchase. Valley Mills welcomes families of all ages.

A couple of things to know about Vally Mills Vineyard. To get to the tasting room, where we will gather, there are a lot of steps from the main parking lot. Handicap parking is available at the top of the hill (no steps). If this parking lot fills up and you are unable to take the stairs, we will have a driver available to drop you off at the top of the hill. The address is 1686 FM-1637 Valley Mills, 76689. Taking 6 from Waco, enter into the town of Valley Mills and turn right on 4th St/FM 56. Drive for about a mile and turn right on to FM 1637, the entrance is there on the left (it is kind of hidden and comes up quick). If wish to attend, but are unable to drive to Valley Mills 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.

Come join us. If you can tie a knot you can help us assemble the quilts. We have a great fellowship time.



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.



- Vicki Terry (Carol Linda)
- Kathy Neill, Jeff Ford (Bradley Linda)
- Bill Mosley, Linda Moll & Cory Lynch (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)

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.



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.**



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 Roy Anderson

Those for whom prayer is requested:

- Melanie, Charlotte Sperfslage, 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, Sandi Walter (Mary Herring)
- Ty Croford, Wanda Stanford, Colten Stanford, Cory Stanford, Truett Noggle (Linda Stanford)
- Rhonda & Shane Owens (Denise Self)

May Birthdays

- Ron Knobel 5/03
- Cory Stanford 5/04
- Mary Krause 5/08
- Maggie Johnson 5/10
- Carter Towers 5/11
- Alaine Copeland 5/13
- Bobby Zimmerman 5/13
- 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
- Mayumi Brewer 5/27
- Isaac Brewer 5/27

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 2023

◀ Apr 2023

Jun 2023 ▶

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