

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming the Love of God for All People

THE MESSENGER

Mission Statement:
Living in Christ through faith.
Living for neighbor through love.

Serving the southwest Fort Worth area since 1953

JUNE 2021

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, organized in 1953, is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Sunday Worship
beginning June 6th
8:00 am & 10:30 am

Church Staff:

Lesley M. Radius
Pastor

Adam Frame
Director of Music Ministries

John Wolf
Organist / Pianist

Kathy Challengren
*Director of the Sounds of Exaltation
Handbell Choir*

Kelly Riddle
Office Assistant; Go! Center Coord.

Mary Nedde
Administrative Assistant

Jocelyne Angeles, Autumn Vaught
Nursery Staff

Council Members:

President: Faye Youngblood
Vice-President: Charlie Schmidt
Secretary: Marcia Boggs
Treasurer: Aaron Droemer
Financial Sec.: Gary Christensen
Christian Ed.: Cindy Kohn
Fellowship: Lisa Reed
Outreach: Tommy Higgs
Property: K.C. Iversen
Stewardship: Phil Beckman
Worship: Karin Dunker
Youth: **Position Open**

A blue-themed poster for a community concert. On the left is a large treble clef with piano keys integrated into its structure. To the right, the text 'FWYO Suzuki' is written in a light blue, handwritten-style font. Below this, it says 'Free community concert featuring students of FWYO Suzuki'. Further down, it lists 'Works by Bach, Vivaldi, Telemann, and more!'. A white banner with a ribbon effect contains the text 'SUNDAY, JUNE 6 @ 6pm'. At the bottom, it says 'St. Matthew's Lutheran Church' and '5709 Wedgwood Drive Fort Worth, TX 76133'.

FWYO Suzuki

Free community concert
featuring students
of FWYO Suzuki

Works by Bach, Vivaldi,
Telemann, and more!

SUNDAY, JUNE 6
@ 6pm

St. Matthew's
Lutheran Church

5709 Wedgwood Drive Fort Worth, TX 76133

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
5709 Wedgwood Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76133
817-292-1338 | office@stmatthews-elca.org | www.stmatthews-elca.org
We are Reconciling in Christ; welcoming to all!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK(TOP)

***If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves;
But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed. Proverbs 29:18***

When we gathered for our congregational meeting a few weeks ago, I shared this verse as we begin to imagine together where God is calling us into God's preferred and promised future. I explained that we would be spending these next few months exploring the intersection points of God's story and our story. Then in prayer and discernment, we would explore where those intersection points invite us into God's work with our hands (St. Matthew's part of God's mission and ministry).

I know this process of prayer and discernment might seem a bit tedious after the year we have had. Perhaps for some of us there is a longing to hurry up and get back to "pre-pandemic normal." We want what from the past was familiar and comfortable to return. Perhaps we even have a sense of "hurry up and go back to normal" so we can erase this past year's pain and loss from our memory.

In our visioning process, we are invited instead of hurrying up and going back to "things as usual," to spend some time trying new things, reimagining the old things in a new way, imaging how the lessons and gifts from this past year and before can inform our transformation and to open ourselves up through prayer and discernment to the movement of the Holy Spirit. (Remember on Pentecost Sunday, I invited every courageous person to pray boldly with me...**Come Holy Spirit, Come!** Who knows what the Holy Spirit will do with that prayer? I can't wait to see.)

LEAD (Living Everyday As a Disciple), a para-church organization that helps churches with discernment and transformation, suggests we try things not in the usual way, but perhaps try something that might even seem different or unusual. Please look at these ideas and see where they can help us grow into God's mission:

1. Create space to learn: *Agree around the leadership table that you will suspend the past way of operating for another year, to try something new. Don't hold a congregational meeting to make this decision. Don't change your bylaws or constitution. Do experiment with a new plan. Act as if you have changed the organization before you vote so you know if it works.*

2. Focus on scripture: *The essence of the church (Acts 2:37-47) is a learning church, a loving church, a worshiping church, and an evangelizing church. These four ministries are what it means to be God's people, gathered, and sent. Align your values with these four ministries. Consolidate the work or let it go. Focus on the heart of ministry by calling people into leadership. Stop voting on who gets to do what. Let that rest for a year as you move to calling leaders with the gifts needed to carry out the work. Thank those who have served in the past, and simply act as if you are living in a new world, because we are! We are living through exceptional times, so we act in extraordinary ways.*

3. Do what matters: *When you gather to carry out ministry, keep reading scripture, praying, and focusing outward. Skip the devotion and go straight to Bible study. Bring and keep your neighbors at the table, even if you haven't met them yet. Pay attention to the needs of children, youth, and families, even if you don't have many in worship right now. Be aspirational as you stretch beyond the ministry you have done in the past. Act as if you are the church, you wish you were.*

(Continued on p. 3.)

PASTOR'S DESK(TOP) *(Continued from p. 2)*

4. Respect and maximize time: Hold regular tactical meetings on Zoom. Use in-person time for strategic conversations for deepening relationships and tackling a missional opportunity. Include an annual retreat away from the church and home as soon as people feel safe doing this. Strengthen and build relationships, deepen faith, rethink practices, build skills for leading through change, and heal from the past year with rituals, stories, and integrity. Home - Way To LEAD

May God guide and lead us forward as God's church called to witness to God's love, grace, and mercy. God's blessings and my prayers,

Pastor Lesley



NEW WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Beginning June 6th, St. Matthew's and St. Christopher will offer a service for both congregations on Sundays at 8:00 am. We will alternate between the Lutheran Service of the Word (ELW p 210-222) and a service from the Book of Common Prayer beginning in July. In June, we will use the Service of the Word. Pastor Lesley will preside and preach. Starting in July, Father Bill, Father Eddie and Pastor Lesley will rotate leading the 8 am service. The worship service will include Scripture reading, homily, eucharist and perhaps a hymn or two. Readers will be clergy or participants chosen before the service. Come join us for an opportunity to hear and proclaim the saving word of God for all the world.

NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 6TH

8:00 - 8:50 a.m.	Service of the Word
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School - In person and online
10:00 - 10:25 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal; greeting time (please bring your own coffee if you wish - it will not be provided during the summer)
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Worship Service - In person and online

On the Second Sunday in June, July and August, we will have an intergenerational gathering after 10:30 worship for fellowship and connecting with each other that will include members of St. Christopher Episcopal Church (see page 7).

There will also be a 4th of July (First Sunday of July) Pie and Pudding Fellowship Hour after 10:30 worship (see page 7).

CELEBRATIONS UPLIFTED AT OUR MAY CONGREGATION MEETING

50th Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Howard Stone's Ordination

20th Anniversary of Rev. Lesley M. Radius' Ordination

Rayanna Morton and Ben McCarthy, High School Graduates

Olivia Riddle, Wittenberg University Graduate

Erika Rudolph, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine Graduate

Barry Kammer, Jr., UTA 2020 Master's Degree in Quantitative Science
(recognized in 2021); 2021 Culinary School Graduate

Liz Shifflett, Aledo Intermediate Teacher of the Year Award

Anne Moroneso, Outgoing Vice President (served 5 years)

Sylvia Wester, Outgoing Financial Secretary (served 5 years)

In June, Daryl and Sarah Hadfield will celebrate 50 years of marriage.

Congratulations to them on this milestone!

THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO A 5-WEEK BIBLE STUDY: "All are Welcome in This Place: the Bible Tells Me So" by Rev. Rob Bork



This study is part of our 30 year anniversary celebration of St. Matthew's adoption of a Statement of Welcome to the LGBTQIA+ community. **It will be led by Rev. Kristin Klade on Zoom on Wednesdays, June 30, July 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. (The Zoom link will be published at a later date.)**

Christians who unconditionally welcome LGBTQIA+ individuals into congregational and sacramental life, as well as into church leadership, often find their Biblical adherence questioned. This Bible study is designed to examine the "clobber texts" in scripture which have been used to deny and harm our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ throughout history. We will consider context, translation, and the lenses by which we read scripture in general. We will also share stories of our faith, knowing that our beliefs are shaped by many things, including our history, education, doctrine, personal experiences of God, and our understanding of our place in the world. This is intended to be a safe space for you to bring your questions, stories, truths, and doubts. This study will also give you tools to be in dialogue with others about how scripture informs St. Matthew's theology of welcome.

Truly, all are welcome to attend!

STONE'S THROW FARM PRODUCE TRUCK



On Tuesday, June 15, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm, a truck from Stone's Throw Farm will be in St. Matthew's parking lot selling locally grown fresh produce, jams, eggs, breads, seasonal fruits, and herbs.

The Stone family is dedicated to improving lives in the special needs community. When you buy from them, you give a work opportunity to a special needs young adult.

LOOK FOR THE YELLOW TRUCK AND SPREAD THE WORD!

Their web page is: www.stonesthrowfarmco.org

THANK YOU TO RICK GREENE



Rick recently planted grass seed and added peat moss to a section of lawn near our storage shed. He is a member of St. Christopher and saw a need to repair this section of grass. It is marked off - please stay off the grass until it is established.

2021-2022 Council Members

At the May 16 Congregation Meeting, the following new Council members were elected:

Officers

Vice President: Charlie Schmidt
 Financial Secretary: Gary Christensen

Commission Directors

Education: Cindy Kohn
 Outreach: Tommy Higgs

Returning Council Members:

Officers

President: Faye Youngblood
 Treasurer: Aaron Droemer
 Secretary: Marcia Boggs

Commission Directors

Fellowship: Lisa Reed
 Property: K.C. Iversen
 Stewardship: Phil Beckman
 Worship: Karin Dunker

We give thanks for all those who are serving on our Council in a challenging time with challenging issues. There is an immediate need for a Director of the Youth Commission - prayerfully consider being a leader for our youth, working closely with Pastor Lesley.



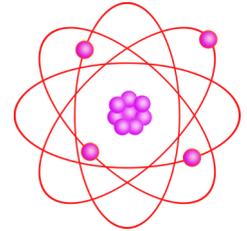
Free Summer Camps Entering Grades 1 through 4

Register soon!
Space is limited



Cooking Camp
June 15, 16, 17 3:30 pm-5:30 pm

Science Camp
June 22, 23, 24 3:30 pm-5:30 pm



Contact Kelly Riddle for the Registration Forms
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
5709 Wedgwood Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76133
817-292-1338 or email gocenter@stmatthews-elca.org

JUNE GOSPEL ALIVE—BLESSING BAGS

Whenever I stop at a light or stop sign and see a person asking for assistance, I always wish I could help. However, I also wonder what the best way is to help. One way, others have helped in the past, is to create **Blessing Bags**. You keep them in your car and when you see someone asking for help, you can offer them blessings in the form of a Blessing Bag.

Blessing Bags, also known as Necessity Bags or Care Kits, include a variety of items for people who are homeless, hungry, and in need of necessities.

We will collect these items in June and then when we gather for Pie and Pudding after the 10:30 worship service on the 4th of July, we will assemble the bags, and you can take one or more for your car to be ready for the next person you see who needs a visible sign of God's care and love. **Items to donate for each Blessing Bag:**

Toothbrush & toothpaste
Washcloth or face/body wipes
Lip balm / sunscreen
Socks (for men & women)
Dental floss
Plastic spoon/fork
Deodorant
First aid kit with single-dose packs of Advil, band-aids, antibiotic ointment

Peanut butter crackers / granola bars
Mints
Hand sanitizer
Bottled water
Comb/brush
Shampoo
Soap



Ladies of St. Christopher and St. Matthew's

We will meet for lunch on **Wednesday, June 16, at 11:30 am at The Mercantile Tea Room** located on the Fort Worth Circle at 7200 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76116. This fellowship of St. Christopher's is a no-host luncheon meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at various restaurants in the area for social purposes only. Friends are always welcome. We have not been able to gather for so long, it will be great to be together with old and new friends.

Please RSVP to Marti Fagley by Tuesday, June 15 by email at mfagley@aol.com.



A WONDERFUL "THANK YOU" FROM ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CONGREGATION



On Sunday, May 16, this message greeted the congregation of St. Matthew's!

COME AND DISCOVER "WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?"

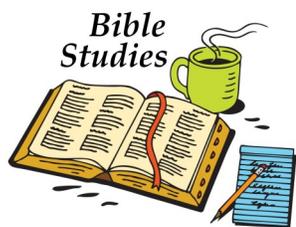
On the 2nd Sunday of the month, starting on June, 13th after 10:30 worship (starting approximately at 11:30 and ending at 12:30), we will have a time of learning and fellowship centered around the topic of **Who is our Neighbor**. Come hear about some Biblical neighbors, play some games, eat a snack, get a take home kit for more exploration during the month and just enjoy being together while we learn more about God and our neighbors near and far. We are inviting our closest neighbor, St. Christopher to join us for this exploration of who is our neighbor. Just as Mr. Rogers says, "So, let's make the most of this beautiful day. Since we're together, we might as well say Would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't you be my neighbor?" Please join us to reconnect with each other and meet a new neighbor.

SAVE THE DATE!

JULY FOURTH PIE AND PUDDING FELLOWSHIP

After worship on the Fourth of July, please join us for some red, white and/or blue edibles. If you have a favorite July 4th dessert, please bring it to share after the 10:30 worship service. Let's continue to re-connect with each other!





SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
8:30 AM ONLINE WITH MARK VINCIGUERRA

Please watch for the Zoom link in an e-mail that comes every Monday. During June we will discuss Sunday's readings for worship.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All women of St. Matthew's and their friends are invited to Bible study online on Zoom every Thursday morning at 10:00 am for study, prayer, laughter and fellowship led by Pr. Lesley.

JUNE LECTIONARY READINGS

JUNE 6

Genesis 3:8-15
 Psalm 30
 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
 Mark 3:20-35

JUNE 13

Ezekiel 17:22-24
 Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
 2 Corinthians 5:6-17
 Mark 4:26-34

JUNE 20

Job 38:1-11
 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
 Mark 4:35-41

JUNE 27

Lamentations 3:22-33
 Psalm 30
 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
 Mark 5:21-43



June 2021 NT-NL Mission Area Prayer List:



*During June we pray for the following
 NT-NL Mission Area congregations and entities:*

- June 6** St. Olaf, Cranfills Gap / Shepherd of Life, Arlington / Eastern Conference
- June 13** Our Saviour's, Durant / Faith, Flower Mound / Church Camps
- June 20** Immanuel, Killeen / Church of the Damascus Rd. / Incarcerated persons
- June 27** Shepherd King, Lubbock / Christ the King, Haltom City / Lutheran Sunset Ministries

We especially pray for the staff and youth who will be growing in faith at Briarwood

For NT-NL News, go to www.ntnl.org

For ELCA News, go to www.elca.org

< > < > < > < > < > < > < >

A Prayer for Morning Time

As the sun rises, Lord, Let your light shine on me.
 The warmth of your Presence, The brightness of your love,
 The radiance of your joy, The shining of your hope,
 Let your light shine on me.
 As the sun rises, Lord, Let your light shine on me.

RECENT PHOTOS



I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:11



Pentecost Spirit Bubbles, May 23



Thank you to those who tend to the plants and flowers on our property.

Chancel Choir
April 25

