

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

JULY 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
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 Attendants

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: Katie Beckman

JULY 4TH PIE AND PUDDING

FELLOWSHIP

After 10:30 Worship



Bring something edible that is **red**, **white** and/or **blue** to share. We will be putting together the Blessing Bags with the items donated during June. Let's continue to reconnect and create blessings to give to those in need whom we see around town.

JULY 11TH - COME AND DISCOVER "WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?"

On the 2nd Sunday of the month, July 11th, after 10:30 worship (at approximately 11:30), we will have a time of learning and fellowship centered around the topic of "Who is our Neighbor?" Come, and we will:

- > hear about some Biblical neighbors
- > play games
- > eat a snack
- > get a take home kit for more exploration during the month
- > enjoy being together while we learn more about God and our neighbors.

Our closest neighbor, St. Christopher is being invited to join us to explore "Who is Our Neighbor?" Please join us to connect with each other and meet a new neighbor.

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)

A pastor friend of mine recently posted a blog where she said she was done talking about COVID and she was moving forward. While I applaud her efforts, I wonder if truly we can do that. Can we or should we leave COVID behind us? Do we miss the lessons of the pandemic if we leave it all behind? Do we have reactions to things that we normally wouldn't have, not realizing it is still the effects of the way we have lived somewhat isolated these past 16 + months.

When I traveled to Florida to preside at a friend's daughter's funeral, I had a very brief panic attack as I was hurrying to catch the shuttle that would take me to the airport baggage claim of my destination. It wasn't until later that I figured out what was going on. I hadn't been in a big crowd for 16 months. I was no longer accustomed to the hustle and bustle that was going on around me. I felt very uncomfortable, out of place and I wanted to go back to a safe zone where I could manage the speed at which things were moving.

I think change, whether it is a change of lifestyle because of COVID or a change in a habit or even a change in a worship pattern can cause us to react. Sometime those reactions are very positive. Sometimes those reactions might be a small panic attack. Sometimes those reactions might be to reach out to the person you feel was responsible for the change and boldly and passionately ask why. Sometimes those changes might make you drop out and say I don't like the change and I am just not going back. Change can be difficult especially if it is with something we hold sacred and holy.

I wonder how we navigate the change in anything, whether it was caused by COVID or not, in a way that we can grow and thrive together. First is through effective communication; each of listening to and hearing from one another. So many times, we listen to respond not to truly hear the other person's reasons and concerns. What would happen if we stopped and listened to truly hear and know the person a little better from what we heard. My grandmother used to always tell her grandkids, "You have two ears and one mouth. Try your best to listen twice as much as you speak." I know this wisdom wasn't unique to my grandmother. However, I do believe it is good wisdom. What do we hear about the change that you are experiencing? If it is causing you distress, what about it is causing that distress? I don't know about you, but when someone truly listens to me, I feel that I am a valued part of the community and I want to work diligently to help that community grow.

Secondly, once we have heard, how do we respond? I pray we can respond with respect, even if the person's opinion differs from ours. I pray we can find our common ground and work from that place and move forward again so that all people feel valued, and the community grows and thrives.

Someone mentioned to me the other day, "Pastor, there sure a lot of changes going on." I was given the gift of time to truly hear the concerns from the person and we could work together to find common ground so we could each move forward into God's preferred and promised future. *(Continued on page 3.)*

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

Things are changing. We are moving into a post-pandemic world. We are moving toward God's preferred and promised future and that will most likely look a bit different, maybe for some it will look a lot different. My prayer for us as a community is that we keep listening and responding to each other so that all feel welcome, valued, and loved as children of God.

God's blessings and my prayers, *Pastor Lesley*

Greetings in Christ from the Christian Education Commission

As we continue to navigate these uncharted waters of a Global Pandemic, we believe God helps us find ways to reach children as never before.

If there's ever a day we need the encouragement that comes from the Word of God, it is today. If you are interested in the investment of teaching in the fall, we would love for you to ***come to a Christian Education meeting after the July 18th 10:30 am service (food will be provided!)***. If you have questions, contact Cindy Kohn, Director of the Christian Education Commission: cakohn9@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER



COULD YOU BE A DRIVER FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Lay Pastoral Care would like to make a ride to church available to anyone needing it on a particular Sunday. If you can be called to offer a ride in this ride share program, would you please let the church office know. Let's make it easier for everyone to worship in person if that is their wish. And ***if you are in need of a ride, please let the church office know of your need.***

JULY GOSPEL-ALIVE

Bruce Shulkey Elementary School, about 6 blocks east of St. Matthew's, always needs **donations of school uniforms for their students – grades Pre-K through 5th grade**. St. Matthew's will be collecting the following uniform items, available at Target, during the month of July:

Tops: Navy or white; collared (polo or Oxford) shirts or blouses, mock or full turtlenecks; must have short or long sleeves (no t-shirts).

Bottoms: Navy, khaki, black, or blue denim; pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, capris or jumpers are acceptable; all items must be hemmed or cuffed; jeans must be free of embellishments.

Socks: Socks or tights must be a solid color (black, navy or white suggested).

Sizes: Youth Small through Ex. Large (14-16); sizes most needed are Youth Small & Medium





TRAVEL TO EASTERN EUROPE WITH PASTOR LESLEY

July 2 - July 12, 2022

*Visiting Prague - Budapest - Vienna - Munich
Including the Passion Play of Oberammergau*

*Hosted by Pr. Lesley M. Radius of
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Fort Worth, TX and
Mrs. Martha Requard of*

St. John's Lutheran Church, Parkville, MD

Cost: \$4,347 per person from Washington, D.C.

Information meeting on Sunday, July 25 at Noon

In person and on Zoom: ID 848 7174 8713 Passcode 907236

**JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDY DURING JULY:
"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 is being led by Rev. Kristin Klade on Wednesdays through July 28 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on Zoom. The Zoom link is: ID 864 1512 4664 Passcode 933843**

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, July 20, 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.

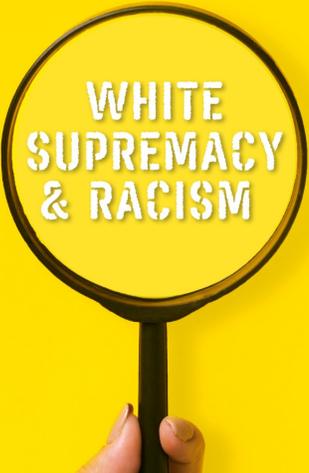
LOOK FOR THE YELLOW TRUCK AND SPREAD THE WORD!

Their web page is: www.stonesthrowfarmco.org

Briarwood Retreat Center and the NT-NL Public Witness Team are hosting a bi-weekly series of online discussions about white supremacy and racism. These discussions are independent of each other; meaning, you can attend just one or as many as you like. All sessions are on

Tuesdays, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. The Zoom link and reading material are provided after you register.

BRIARWOOD LEADERSHIP CENTER & THE NT-NL PUBLIC WITNESS TEAM INVITE YOU TO JOIN A DEEP INVESTIGATION OF



FACING REALITY
TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

An online seminar with assigned reading and group discussion to collect the tools to dismantle the structures of racism and white supremacy

Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 8:30 pm CDT
Every two weeks 5/11 through 10/19/2021

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
July 6	Derrick Bell, "The Space Traders"
July 20	Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex"
August 3	Enrique Dussel, "Eurocentrism and Modernity"
August 17	Vine Deloria, Jr., "A Better Day for Indians"
August 31	Ian F. Haney López, "White by Law"
September 14	Karen Brodtkin Sacks, "How Did Jews Become White Folks?"
September 28	Susannah Heschel, "The Slippery Yet Tenacious Nature of Racism"
October 12	Cornell West, "A Genealogy of Modern Racism"

For more information and to register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/bwtxracism>

ST. CHRISTOPHER: “NAVIGATING UNKNOWN, BUT HEALING WATERS”

Katie Sherrod for the Leadership News - June 9, 2021

This story was written by Marti Fagley, senior warden of St. Christopher Episcopal Church, now worshipping at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 5709 Wedgwood, Fort Worth, TX 76133. They were forced to move out of their historic building when the Supreme Court of the United States declined to hear an appeal of the Texas Supreme Court order giving Episcopal Church property to people who left The Episcopal Church in 2008.

On April 19, our parish moved out of the building that our congregation had so lovingly updated and maintained for decades. There were many tears. There was much laughter. There was a lot of fellowship as we grieved the loss of our building.

We've also found welcome. Radical welcome.

The congregation of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church took in this group of weary travelers. We contacted their pastor, Lesley Radius, to see if they had space for us. She told us that just a few days earlier their bishop had instructed them to provide whatever hospitality any of our displaced congregations might need. An answer to prayer indeed.

For now, many items have gone into storage. Other items have been returned to donors. We began our services in the sanctuary of St. Matthew's in late April. We've welcomed members of St. Andrew's and Christ the King/St. Elisabeth.

Thankfully, the break-away group allowed our preschool to complete the school year. Our teachers have truly been heroes during this COVID-19 crisis. The preschool reopened this past school year with a limited enrollment of 18 children, whose parents worked in the medical field or as first responders. We've been unable to find a space to continue the preschool, so we've suspended operations of our 61-year-old preschool for now. Keep our staff of five - who have more 75 years of experience among them - in your prayers as they look for new jobs.

We remain determined to restart the school when we find or build our new location.

May has been a month of finding our new normal again. We aren't quite there yet, but we are very close. We recently received our certificate of occupancy for our administrative office in Fort Worth.

At St. Matthew's, our altar guild is working closely with our host worship group to share duties and space. Our acolytes and readers are finding their way around new worship spaces and COVID practices. Our choir is beginning to sing again with old and new voices. Our tech guild is working with our host's technology group finding ways to use each other's equipment and set-ups to continue to live-stream our services on Zoom and Facebook.

In July, our Laundry Love ministry will resume having in-person monthly events at a local laundromat on the third Saturday of the month. We'll be providing free laundry service, food, and children's activities to more than 90 clients just as we did before the quarantine.

We are adjusting to our new worship time at 1:00 p.m. In July, we begin alternate 8:00 a.m. services with St. Matthew's. We are blessed to be welcomed at the St. Matthew's 10:30 a.m. service. We are navigating unknown waters, but they are healing waters. We will soon begin discerning our future. We want to find our own place in God's plan for us. We will take time to dream, listen and follow the Holy Spirit wherever we are called.

St. Christopher is the patron saint of travelers. We are traveling on the road and welcoming the safety and love we have been provided.

Thanks be to God!



Ladies of St. Christopher and St. Matthew's

We will meet for lunch on **Wednesday, July 21, at 11:30 am at Lucile's** located at 4700 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76116. This "Dining Diva's" 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. It is wonderful to be able to gather together again with old and new friends.

*Please RSVP to Marti Fagley by **Tuesday, July 20** at 817-637-1820 or by email at mfagley@aol.com.*



8:00 am WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning in July, we will alternate leading the 8:00 am worship service with St. Christopher Episcopal Church. The schedule for July is:

July 4	Lutheran Service
July 11	Episcopal Service
July 18	Lutheran Service
July 25	Episcopal Service



Our adult Sunday School class led by Mark Vinciguerra will continue to meet every Sunday in person and on Zoom at 9:00 a.m.

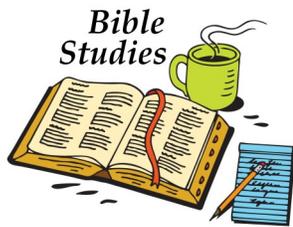
UPDATE ON FACE MASKS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Last year (2020), St. Matthew's responded to the call to sew face masks to protect families around the world from COVID-19. The initial overall goal for Lutheran World Relief was for 75,000 masks - **but collectively, 123,985 masks were sewn and donated!** These masks reached:

- > Shelters for hurricane survivors in Honduras and Guatemala
- > Overcrowded slums in Haiti
- > Tent-filled displacement camps in Mali
- > Displaced persons and at-risk communities in the country of Georgia
- > Refugees and asylum seekers in Angola

Thank you from LWR for your hard work and for responding to their call. You are the hands and feet of Christ as you share love with your worldwide neighbors!





SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM IN PERSON & ONLINE WITH MARK VINCIGUERRA

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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - TUESDAY MORNINGS 10:00 AM

All women of St. Matthew's and their friends are invited to Bible study online on Zoom **every Tuesday morning (new day) at 10:00 am beginning July 6.** Join us for study, prayer, laughter and fellowship led by Pr. Lesley.
Zoom ID: 830 6759 5740 Passcode: 063632

JULY LECTIONARY READINGS

JULY 4

Ezekiel 2:1-5
Psalm 123
2 Cor. 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

JULY 11

Amos 7:7-15
Psalm 85:8-13
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-20

JULY 18

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 23
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

JULY 25

2 Kings 4:42-44
Psalm 145:10-18
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

July 2021 NT-NL Mission Area Prayer List:

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

- July 4** Lord of Life, Glenn Heights / NT-NL Coaches / Congregations on LEAD Journey
July 11 Calvary, San Angelo / Grace, Slaton / NT-NL Leadership Formation
July 18 Faith, Spearman / Salem, Rosebud / Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)
July 25 First, Waco / St. John, Wilson / Conferencia Latina

We especially pray for NT-NL Deans, Assist. Deans & Conference Leadership Teams

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

For ELCA News, go to www.elca.org

ST. MATTHEW'S STATEMENT OF WELCOME

While many experience our world as a place of alienation and brokenness, we as a community of the Baptized are called to share God's grace, welcome, and love with everyone. Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, and we are challenged by the Gospel to be agents of healing and justice within our society. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female" (Galatians 3:28). Christ has made us one and all people share the worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God.

We confess we have betrayed this oneness in *particular* ways as it relates to gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and race, causing deep wounds that have betrayed the Gospel. While it is not exhaustive, this welcome is meant to address these specific wounds. Some of the ways we make known our care and concern is by affirming the following:

- That LGBTQIA+ people are welcome within the sacramental and public life of this congregation.
- That LGBTQIA+ people are welcome into membership of this congregation upon making their affirmation of baptismal faith.
- That LGBTQIA+ people are invited to share in all aspects of this community including gifts of administration, teaching, and leadership.
- That this congregation will wholeheartedly share the community space/sanctuary for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.
- That this congregation is open to calling any rostered leader including one who may be LGBTQIA+, Black, Brown, Indigenous, or a Person of Color.

Furthermore, we recognize the intersectionality of a person's experience of gender and race, and therefore commit to the hard work of becoming antiracist, as we live into our welcome.



ALL ARE WELCOME

2021 COOKING AND SCIENCE CAMPS



RECENT PHOTOS



Juneteenth Recognition - Providing water for plants as a sign of renewal and hope.



Children's Message on June 20.

Sending on June 20:
Katie Beckman to Lutheran Summer Music at Valparaiso University
Chris and Karin Dunker as Mission Builders to Baltimore, MD.

