

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

SEPTEMBER 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, C.J. Waiters
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: Open position
Youth Rep.: Katie Beckman

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS DAY OF SERVICE



Calling all children to come at 9:00 am on September 12 for a fun hour of activities and getting acquainted - Ages 3 through High School are encouraged to be present!

There will also be adult Sunday School at 9 am

PLEASE WEAR YOUR YELLOW "God's Work, Our Hands" T-SHIRT ON SEPT. 12 AND JOIN US FOR ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICE PROJECTS AFTER 10:30 WORSHIP:

- **Trash pick up along Granbury Road** - reflective vests, garbage bags & pick-up sticks will be provided; please bring your own work gloves.
- **Creating an outdoor learning area** at Bruce Shulkey Elementary School - tools & needed materials will be provided; please bring your own work gloves.
- **Putting together "Welcome Bags" for the Go! Center and creating "Thank You" cards** for our nearby police and fire stations as well as for our homebound members.



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)

For I am the Lord, I do not change. – Malachi 3:6

School buses on the roads, the sun not rising as early, changes in the weather; these are all hints that we are in a time of transition as the Fall season returns. In the church, the clues that a transition is ahead as the Fall season begins includes Sunday School and the choir returning and Marty Haugen's *Now the Feast and Celebration* liturgy is put away for next summer. Check out some of the things that will be happening this Fall.

On Sunday, September 12th, we will change to ELW Setting 8 for our liturgy at the 10:30 am service. We will be offering Godly Play [Godly Play \(godlyplayfoundation.org\)](http://godlyplayfoundation.org) for our children's Sunday school. Pastor Lesley and the Middle School and High School will journey with the Boundless material in preparation for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering. Adult Education continues with examining the Scripture texts used each Sunday in worship. The Stewardship Commission is providing our 2022 Stewardship Campaign - Stewardship: A Disciple's Path. Workshops are scheduled for September 19th, October 24th and November 14th, after the 10:30 am service. At the end of these sessions, we will have a statement that helps us understand how our faith community sees the role of Stewardship in light of our call to discipleship. (By the way, the journey includes chocolate.) We will then be inviting our faith community to participate in being a good steward; including a written commitment of how all will share their time, talent and treasure.

On October 20th, we are planning to begin offering Wednesday night suppers again. We will be adding a new twist to the dinners. We will be incorporating worship with our dinners. It is known as Dinner Church and finds its origin in the early church as they gathered together around a meal, telling the story of Jesus' last supper, breaking bread, and sharing the cup. Dinner Church reminds us by celebrating the Eucharist at an ordinary table with an ordinary meal, we encounter Christ as present in all the ordinary places in our lives, not just those marked as "holy." Stay tuned for more information about Dinner Church from your worship and fellowship commissions.

The Outreach Commission is exploring how St. Matthew's might very actively be involved in helping the Afghanistan Allies scheduled for resettlement in Fort Worth. The team is reaching out to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service for ways to help and support this effort. The Team is also inviting each of us to participate September 12th after the 10:30 am worship service in "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. Check out the board at church for the service opportunities. The Reconciled in Christ Task Force continues to prayerfully find ways to help us live out God's call to radical hospitality.

The Music Team will be offering a Wedgwood Arts series starting September 23rd. Check out the entry table for invitations to share with your friends and family. The Council and I invite you to continue to join us in daily prayer as we seek to live into God's mission and ministry. For more information about upcoming opportunities for Mission and Ministry as we transition into Fall, keep reading your E-news, Messenger, Bulletin and social media.

While reading about all these opportunities, these transitions might seem a bit overwhelming. The good news of God is that even though there are many transitions in our lives, one thing is sure and does not or will not change. *For I am the Lord, I do not change. – Malachi 3:6.* Confident in God's promise of steadfast and never changing love and grace, we move forward into the Fall and into God's mission and ministry.

Blessings,
Pastor Lesley

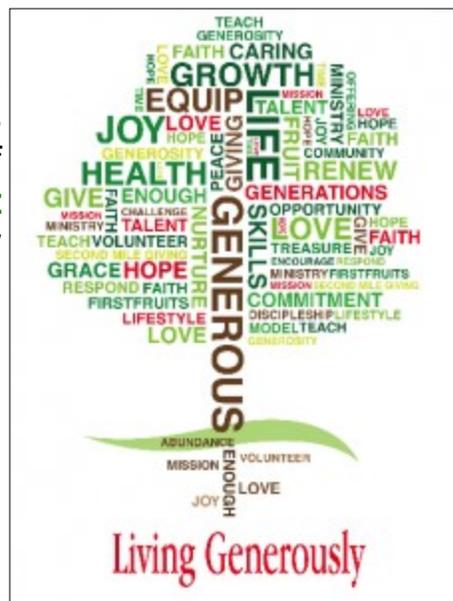


STEWARDSHIP COTTAGE GROUP MEETINGS

Stewardship: A Disciple's Path

The first meeting of our Stewardship Cottage Groups was held on August 22. There was enlightening discussion regarding what we thought about when we think of "stewardship." At the next meeting, **Sunday, Sept. 19 at 11:30 am**, the cottage groups will continue to look at how we understand faithful stewardship through the following topics:

- 1) Stewardship Stereotype
- 2) God Owns it All
- 3) The Stewards
- 4) The Steward of Your Life
- 5) Everything After, "I Believe"
- 6) Offering Prayer.



COUNCIL MEETING DATE HAS CHANGED:

Beginning in September, our Congregation Council will be meeting on Zoom at 6:30 pm on the **second Thursday of the month:**

September 9th
October 14th

November 11th
December 9th



GUEST PRESIDING MINISTER - SEPTEMBER 5 10:30 Worship Service

Pastor Hartman with Food for the Poor

He will also lead the 9:00 am Sunday School Hour

Pastor Hartmann will share personal witness about Food for the Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.

Pastor Rick was ordained in 1983 and has studied at Trinity Lutheran Seminary and the University of St. Thomas in Houston. He is a retired ELCA pastor with 30 years in parish ministry serving congregations in five states, including Texas where he now lives. Pastor Rick's primary social concern is for hungry people everywhere and so relishes the opportunity to be ministering through Food for the Poor and each congregation he visits.

www.foodforthe poor.org

READY, SET, GO! CENTER ***2021-2022 School Year***

“Education is for improving lives of others and for leaving your community better than you found it.”- Marian Wright Edelman

We are excited and proud to be kicking off year 6 of the SMLC Ready, Set, Go! Tutoring and Mentoring Center on **Tuesday, September 14th, 2021**.

Our Center serves all local elementary schools Kindergarten through 5th grade with free of charge tutoring and mentoring every Tuesday afternoon 3:30-5:30 p.m. This includes help with homework, study help with school test and quizzes as well as 30 minute of alternating weeks of Science and Arts/Crafts time.

It takes many hands and open hearts to make this very important outreach a success. We are so grateful to all of our dedicated and faithful volunteers through the years and could always use more! If you have ever considered dedicating your time, just two short hours a week, now is the time! No previous experience is necessary just an open heart and an open mind.

Please contact Kelly Riddle - Site Coordinator in the church office or on her cell at 817-360-4584 for more information on how you can help make a positive impact in our Wedgwood/Southwest Fort Worth community.

We are collecting snacks for the Go! Center - The following items are popular with the kids: Granola bars, fruit snacks or roll ups, small bags of Oreo or other cookies, small bags of chips or popcorn. Bring your donations to church on Sunday or to the office during the week.



Thank you for your support!

READY, SET, GO! CENTER
@ ST. MATTHEW'S

SEPTEMBER GOSPEL-ALIVE

ITEMS NEEDED FOR AFGHANI RESETTLEMENT

During September, we will be collecting items needed for families coming to Fort Worth through the help of Refugee Services of Texas. Refugee Services has already placed families from Afghanistan and are expecting more to come to Fort Worth. St. Matthew's Outreach Commission is exploring the possibility of sponsoring a family. If you wish to help with this effort, please contact Katrina Martich at kmartich@sbcglobal.net. Please bring your in-kind donations of the following items to the entry table at church:

Gift cards - \$25 or \$50 for Kroger or Walmart

New or used toys - must be clean, good condition, for 6 mos.-age 10

New or used children's books - in good condition

New or gently used baby clothing

Diapers (all sizes) and baby wipes

New blankets (single, full or queen sizes; no used items)

New sheets (single, full or queen sizes; no used items)

To learn more about the work of
Refugee Services of Texas, go to:

<https://www.rstx.org>



YOUNG ADULTS IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (aka YACC)

Ages 18 to 35-ish

YACC will be meeting on the following dates at 6:30 pm

(place to be determined):

Sept. 19 - Fellowship Dinner/Mental Health Check-in

Oct. 17 - Fellowship Dinner/Movie (a documentary or something)

Nov. 21- Friendsgiving

Dec. 19 - Dirty Santa gift exchange

Contact Kristin Klade for more information: k.r.klade@gmail.com



ST. MATTHEW'S MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Currently, St. Matthew's Mutual Ministry Team is meeting via Zoom every month. We feel it is important to meet on a regular basis, especially during this post-pandemic time of reopening/re-establishing our congregation's ministries to its fullest extent, and also to get to know Pastor Lesley Radius better.

The Team is available to you, the congregation, as a means to confidentially share your affirmations and concerns as together we live out God's mission in this place. **Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 8 on Zoom, and we will begin meeting on the first Thursday of the month in October.** Members of the Mutual Ministry Committee include:

Kim Huggins kim_msu@yahoo.com

Curtis Manske cwmanske@gmail.com

Kari Teigen kari.jo.teigen@gmail.com

Steve Weis s.weis@tcu.edu

Charlie Schmidt (Council Liaison) charles.ginny@gmail.com

Mark Vinciguerra (Chairperson) mrtjvin@usa.net

Adam Frame, St. Matthew's Director of Music Ministries, has put together an exciting series of arts-related events, open to the public, that will take place at St. Matthew's beginning in September.

WEDGWOOD ARTS SERIES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 7:00 PM

BECCA WAUGH ART RECEPTION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 4:00 PM

AZTECA BALLET FOLKLORICO

5709 WEDGWOOD DRIVE
FREE CONCERTS AND ART SHOWS



For more information on upcoming events, please go to:

www.wedgwoodarts.com

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHERING TOGETHER IN OBSERVANCE OF 9-11

**Saturday, September 11, 2021 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
at Briarwood Retreat Center, Argyle, TX**

For Food, Fun and Worship - Activities for all ages. There will be worship at 12:00 pm, during which we will remember the 20th Anniversary of 9/11/2001, recognize those ordained to serve NT-NL congregations in the last year (including Pastor Lesley), and remember those who have been baptized and those who have died in our NT-NL congregations.



670 COPPER CANYON RD, ARGYLE, TX 76226

**Saturday, September 11, 2021 6:00 pm
at St. Matthew's**

There will be a joint service in remembrance of 9-11 with St. Christopher Episcopal Church. Please join us for this solemn time to remember and to look forward.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



**Sept. 12
2021**

SAVE THE DATE!

Sat., Sept. 11 – 12:00 pm: Worship at Briarwood for the 20th Anniversary of 9-11.
6:00 pm: Joint worship with St. Christopher, reflecting on 9-11.

Sun., Sept. 12 – Sunday School Rally Day Welcome (9:00 am) and “God’s Work, Our Hands” Day of Service (service projects after 10:30 am worship)

Wed., Sept. 15 – 7:00 pm Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals at 7:00 pm

Thurs., September 23 – 7:00 pm Becca Waugh Art Reception. This is the first event in St. Matthew’s new year-long Wedgwood Arts Series (Adam Frame co-ordinator)

Sun., September 26 – 4:00 pm St. Matthew’s Wedgwood Arts Series presents Azteca Ballet Folklorico.



CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS RETURN!

Come join the voices of St. Matthew’s Chancel Choir on Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00 pm. This choir will return to singing at every 10:30 am Sunday worship service and special events as needed. All voice ranges are welcome!

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL

WHEN: Introduction for students and parents September 12 at 9:00 am in the Library

WHO: For children ages 3 through 5th grade; parents are especially invited to the Introduction on Sept. 12.

WHAT IS GODLY PLAY? It is a method of telling God’s stories to children that incorporates learning how to come closer to God, listening to God’s stories, responding to God’s stories, and being in community. It is structured so that a range of ages can participate in the same class. Old Testament stories will be told September through November, followed by the four Sundays of Advent with various biblical people showing us the way to Bethlehem. The stories are told by a storyteller, and a doorkeeper assists with getting the children ready to listen and helping them with their story response. If you wish to help, please contact Cindy Kohn, Education Director.



IN COMMUNITY . . .

Dining Divas – This lunch outing for ladies is held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at local restaurants around Fort Worth. Please contact Marti Fagley (mfagley@aol.com or 817-637-1820) for more information. Or, see the bulletin announcements each month.

Candleridge Community Garden Club – This neighborhood garden club meets at St. Mathew's at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. They would love to have you join them. If you want to talk to someone about this group, you may contact Faye Youngblood (fayeyoungblood@gmail.com or 817-319-7794)

St. Christopher Choir and St. Matthew's Choir – The small but growing St. Christopher's choir is led by Music Director, David Lindsey. Anyone who wants to join us in praising God and bringing a joyful noise to the Lord is welcome! Please contact David for more information (David.lindsey1589@gmail.com or 682-564-6014). St. Matthew's choir, led by Music Director Adam Frame, will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 7:00 pm.

The Order of the Daughters of the King – This ministry is a lay order for women and girls (7-18) in the Episcopal and ELCA churches who's ministry is to pray and serve for the spread of Christ's kingdom. We have a senior chapter for women – St. Elisabeth of Portugal – that is led by Donna Clopton (dclopton10@yahoo.com or 817-771-5814); and a Junior Daughters Chapter – St. Mary's JDoK - led by Marti Fagley (mfagley@aol.com or 817-637-1820) for girls. Please contact either of them if you are interested in knowing more or joining.

Godly Play – St. Matthew's has a Godly Play Sunday School program you may be interested in knowing more about for your children. They will gather each Sunday morning at 9:00 am beginning on Sept. 12. To learn more, call St. Matthew's at 817-292-1338.

Gospel Alive Ministries – Please notice the boxes at the entry of St. Matthew's. These boxes are for gifts to support the homeless, schools, animal shelters, etc. If you have donations for them, it would be greatly appreciated. The requests change monthly.

Grounds Group – If gardening is your passion, please contact K. C. Iversen (iversenkj@gmail.com or 254-681-1359) to join them and learn what projects are planned.

Laundry Love – This ministry takes place on the 3rd Saturday of the month and has over 90 clients. To donate go to www.stchrisfw.org/Give or to volunteer, please contact Kelli Graham (kelligraham76@yahoo.com or 817-269-4565).

Parolees Lunches – This ministry hopes to restart in September. If you are able to make sandwiches or provide other items, please contact Carolyn Law for more information (crlaw1967@yahoo.com or 817-709-0888).

Prayer Shawl Ministry – This group of knitters and crocheters gathers to make prayer shawls for those who are ill or in crisis. These unique and lovingly made gifts are blessed and distributed as needed. If this is your calling, please contact Jenny Jensen (817-921-2724 or wddjensen@charter.net) for details.

Stone's Throw Farm Produce Truck – Filled with fresh fruits and vegetables, the truck comes to the St. Matthew's parking lot every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 3-6 pm. The proceeds from this locally owned farm shares the profit with a charity for God's people with Special Needs. You get fresh farm-grown produce and support a worthwhile cause.

Women's Bible Study – This study meets on Tuesday mornings on Zoom at 10:00 am, led by Pastor Lesley. They are currently studying 1 Corinthians. If you want to know more or want to join, please call the St. Matthew's office at 817-292-1338.

STONE'S THROW FARM PRODUCE TRUCK



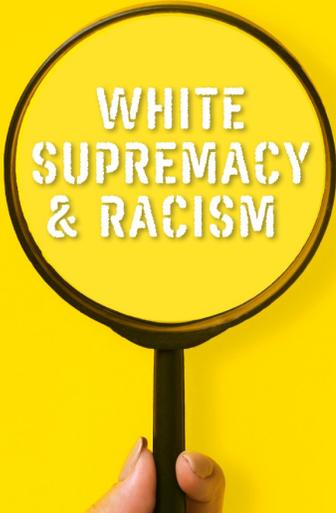
On Tuesday, September 21, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm a truck from Stone's Throw Farm will be in St. Matthew's parking lot selling locally grown fresh produce, jams, eggs, breads, seasonal fruits, and herbs.

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 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

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.

Date	Topic
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>

Ladies of St. Christopher and St. Matthew's

We will meet for lunch on Wednesday, September 15, at 11:30 am at Mimi's restaurant. 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, September 14 at 817-637-1820 or by email at mfagley@aol.com



8:00 am WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We are sharing the leadership of the 8:00 am worship service with St. Christopher Episcopal Church. The schedule for September is:

- September 5 Episcopal Service
- September 12 Episcopal Service
- September 19 Lutheran Service
- September 26 Episcopal Service



Our adult Sunday School class is meeting every Sunday in person and on Zoom at 9:00 a.m. Children's and high school ages will begin meeting on September 12 at 9:00 a.m.

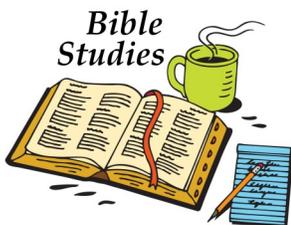
GODSPEED FOR THE REVS. GORDON JOHNSON AND MARIE HERRENSCHMIDT

Please join Pastor Lesley in wishing Reverends Gordon Johnson and Marie Herrenschmidt Godspeed as they relocate to South Carolina to be close to family. They will be living on the same property where their daughter and family live. What a blessing each will be to one another. Farewell and Godspeed:

Eternal God, we thank you for Gordon and Marie and for our life together in this congregation and community. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

DAY OF ST. MATTHEW - SEPTEMBER 21

Matthew was a tax collector for the Roman government in Capernaum on the northern coast of the Sea of Galilee. Tax collectors were distrusted because they were dishonest and worked as agents for the occupying Romans. In the gospels, tax collectors are mentioned as sinful and despised outcasts, but it was these outcasts to whom Jesus showed his love. Matthew's name means "gift of the Lord." Since the second century tradition has attributed the first gospel to him. Matthew 9:9-13 is the account of the calling of Matthew as a disciple.



**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. This class is exploring the readings from each Sunday's lectionary.

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 at 10:00 am.** Join us for study, prayer, laughter and fellowship led by Pr. Lesley. Zoom ID: 830 6759 5740 Passcode: 063632 **Please note that on Sept. 28th we will meet in person (and on Zoom) and then go out for lunch.**

HANDBELL CHOIR HAS RESUMED REHEARSALS



The Sounds of Exaltation Handbell Choir has resumed rehearsals! We meet every Tuesday night at 6:15 pm. New ringers are welcome!

SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

September 5

Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 16
James 2:1-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 12

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 116:1-9
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 19

Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm 54
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 26

Numbers 11:4-6,
10-16, 24-29
Psalm 19:7-14
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

September 2021 NT-NL Mission Area Prayer List:



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

- Sept. 5** Faith, Ft. Worth / Good Shepherd, The Colony / NT-NL Synod Council
- Sept. 12** Good Shepherd, Irving / NT-NL Mentors / ELCA Disaster Relief
- Sept. 19** Trinity, Clovis, NM / Our Savior, Mesquite / Texas Lutheran University
- Sept. 26** First Sagrada Familia, Garland / Abiding Grace, Southlake / ELCA Bishops

**We especially pray for emerging leaders in Campus Ministry and
Youth and Family Ministry**

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

For ELCA News, go to www.elca.org

PHOTOS FROM AUGUST



Blessing for Olivia Riddle on Aug. 1, as she leaves to attend seminary in Chicago.



Putting on God's armor



Stewardship Cottage Group Meeting on Aug. 22



Making structures with the help of our neighbors Aug. 8



Sign made by a former Mission Builder