

# 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 2022

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  
8:15 am & 11:00 am  
Christian Education  
9:30 am

#### Church Staff:

Lesley M. Radius

*Pastor*

Adam Frame

*Director of Music Ministries*

John Wolf

*Organist / Pianist*

Shirley Johnson

*Director of the Sounds of Exaltation  
Handbell Choir*

Kelly Riddle

*Office Assistant; Go! Center Coord.*

Mary Nedde

*Administrative Assistant*

Jocelyne Angeles, C.J. Waiters,

Valerie Dyke

*Nursery Attendants*

#### Council Members:

President: Faye Youngblood

Vice-President: Charlie Schmidt

Treasurer: Aaron Droemer

Finan. Secretary: Gary Christensen

Secretary: Marcia Boggs

Christian Ed.: Cindy Kohn

Fellowship: Lisa Reed

Outreach: **Position Open**

Property: K.C. Iversen

Stewardship: Phil Beckman

Worship: Karin Dunker

Youth: **Position Open**

Youth Rep: Katie Beckman

## SAVE THE DATE!

## CONGREGATION MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 12 at 12:00 PM

**WITH POTLUCK MEAL  
AND RECEPTION FOR NEW MEMBERS**

### THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE:

**Voting on Council Positions**

**Audit Committee Report**

**Conversation about Church Safety**

### FOR THE POTLUCK, PLEASE BRING:

**A – J** Fruit, potato, Jell-o, or green salad

**K – R** Dessert

**S – Z** Anything that will go with sandwiches, including paper plates, napkins, chips, dip, etc.

Sandwiches and drinks provided.

**You may join the meeting in person or on Zoom.**

**Zoom Info: Meeting ID 871 4920 8403 Passcode 609601**



**Please set aside this time to make  
important decisions for our life  
together at St. Matthew's.**

**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)*

As I listened to the news of another violent act (Mass shooting at Robb School, Uvalde, Tx) and learned that it was the 27<sup>th</sup> school shooting so far this year (information from Education Week), my heart sank, my eyes filled with tears and my head bowed in prayer.

What do we do with our deep pain and grief? The world would tell us to, "Buck up. Don't feel. Pretend or medicate, if necessary, but get over it and move on." Sometimes as Christians, we are told if we have faith, we won't get hurt. We won't feel hopeless.

The Bible shows us how Jesus managed grief and pain. Jesus cried when he heard the news that his friend Lazarus had died. In the Beatitudes, we are told that those who weep are blessed.

So how do we respond to grief and sadness? The Psalmists have taught us a way to approach God in our grief. It is lament or prayer of lament. It starts with acknowledging before God the depth of our sorrow, fears, anxieties, etc. It puts into words the content of our heart. It trusts God to hold our pain, while we expound or even rant about the situation. It allows us to go the depth of our distress without going to a place without hope. It allows us to cast our burden on God rather than trying to carry it all ourselves.

Examples of community laments are Psalms 12, 44, 58, 60, 74, 79, 80, 126. Some individual lament Psalm examples are 3, 4, 5, 7, 13, 14, 17, 25, 27.

Here is my personal prayer of lament to God as I think about the Robb School shooting... What is your prayer of lament? How would you put in words the content of your heart? I invite you to go to God with your prayer of lament, knowing that God is acquainted with grief and sorrow.

O God, I do not understand the continual violence of this world. I know we live in a broken, sinful world, but my heart weeps for the pain that our human actions, our sin causes. I weep when I think of the families who have lost loved ones through senseless violence. Twenty-seven shootings in schools in just 2022. Violence seems like it has become a common place occurrence. O Lord, how much longer? What can we do? How can we protect our children? How can we protect our families? Come quickly Lord. Guide us in our actions. Show us your face, Lord. Show us your hope and love. Make each of us an instrument of your peace. Shine your light into a dark world. "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." Amen.

Revelation 21:3-4 says that God will wipe away every tear one day, but until that day we can rest in the promise that we can go to God with our pain and our tears. May God bless us as we share our prayer of lament and may we feel God's care and compassion.

**Blessings,**

*Pastor Lesley*

## *WINE IN THE WAREHOUSE*



Tour of the Tarrant Area Food Bank  
 Wednesday, June 8  
 5:30 pm at the Food Bank *or*  
 meet at 5:00 pm at church to carpool  
 2600 Cullen Street, Fort Worth 76107



A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or  
 call the church office - limit of 12-15 persons.

## *GREETINGS FROM KATRINA MARTICH*

Greetings from Spokane, WA! Now that the business of the move is finished, I have time to reflect on my 5 years in Fort Worth. It was a period of unknowing and transition for me, but one thing was constant from the time I arrived, to the time I left: the embrace of the St. Matthew's community.

You warmly welcomed me when I first visited. I'd only been in the new house a week, and my husband was in the hospital having hip surgery. Your care and concern helped me through a scary time and made me feel less alone. You encouraged me as I completed my deaconess program and stood with me as I was consecrated to diaconal ministry. You supported me in exploring what Fearless Discipleship might be for all of us. I will be forever grateful to the St. Matthew's community for accompanying me in these pivotal years of becoming who God has called me to be.

My cell phone and email address haven't changed if you want to stay in touch. You can also connect with me on my ministry Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/katrinamartich](http://www.facebook.com/katrinamartich)) or my website ([www.katrinamartich.com](http://www.katrinamartich.com)).

May God's peace be upon you, and I pray for your continued journey into who God is calling you to be.

Deaconess Katrina Martich

## *DONATION OF NEW SOUND SYSTEM*

In early May, the Episcopal Diocese met at St. Matthew's for two days of meetings. As a thank you for hosting them, a sound system for the Fellowship Hall was donated to us. We are very appreciative of this gift!



## COFFEE AND COMMUNITY - 2ND SUNDAYS

Join us each 2nd Sunday during the Summer months for "Coffee and Community" - an opportunity to be in fellowship AND to learn more about community organizations we support through Gospel Alive projects, special offerings, volunteers, and more! Various Community Engagement representatives will be present with us to share their organization's story. In May, Pastor Donna Wright was with us to share the story of the NTNL Synod's Mission Endowment Fund. **Mark your calendars and meet us in the Fellowship Hall, 9-9:30am, on the following dates:**

**June 12** - Big Brothers Big Sisters Greater Tarrant Co.

**July 10** - Catholic Charities Ft. Worth

**August 7** - Our Community, Our Kids



## *St. Matthew's Youth: Going to High School Beach Camp*

When we discovered there would be no ELCA Youth Gathering this year, we were saddened and quickly looked for other possibilities for our youth to experience community and have opportunities to grow their faith.

The Youth are going to *High School Beach Camp June 26<sup>th</sup>-July 1*. Katie Backman and Nick Tadi will be travelling to Corpus Christi for High School Beach Camp led by Cross Trails Ministry staff (Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch Camp). They will:

- be challenged to live out their faith in new ways as they take camp to the coast!
- enjoy interactive Bible study, worship and daily activities on the beach and within the beautiful downtown of Corpus Christi.
- learn new ways to express their faith in public through service and words as they hang out at different area beaches, find dolphins on a boat tour, learn how to build the perfect sandcastle, and explore local tourist sites.

*Please keep Nick and Katie in your prayers as they adventure to South Texas.* Thank you to the Reed's who will provide transportation for Katie and Nick. It will be exciting for Nick and Katie to share their stories about Beach Camp with us later this summer in worship.





## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



*We wish God's blessings on our graduates:*

*Sophie Moroneso, graduating 8th grade from St. Paul's Lutheran School*

*Finn Riddle, graduating from Southwest Christian School  
Finn will be attending Texas Tech University*

*Georgia Riddle, graduating from Hunter College in New York City  
with a degree in film production and a minor in Spanish.*

*Let us pray: Lord God, we thank you for the celebrations in our lives and for the abilities you have given to make accomplishments possible. With gratefulness we give thanks for your presence and guidance in Finn's and Georgia's lives and may your gifts continue to be made known to them. Amen.*

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

### Craft, Conversation and Connection

**We are gathering on the first Thursday of the month at 10 am** (it will be hybrid, so you will still be able to join through Zoom) at church and online. For those in person, we will be doing a craft together. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we created greeting cards. On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be doing Bible Journaling. There will be no meeting in July, and August 4<sup>th</sup> is yet to be planned. After a time of crafting, conversation and connection, those who are able will go out for lunch. All women are invited to join us for this summer adventure.

## FREE SUMMER CAMPS COMING TO ST. MATTHEW'S IN JULY



**July 19 - 21 COOKING CAMP**

**July 26 - 28 MUSIC CAMP**



**Both camps are from 2:00 - 4:00 pm  
For ages entering 1st grade to  
entering 6th grade**

**Email to register at  
[gocenter@stmatthews-elca.org](mailto:gocenter@stmatthews-elca.org) or  
call 817-292-1338**

## **THANK YOU FROM THE WOMEN'S CENTER**

Thank you [to St. Matthew's] for your contribution of wish list items. With your help The Women's Center will continue to provide long-term solutions for women and families in crisis.

*Anne -  
Thank you for being our champion,  
and thank you Congregation for  
their generosity.  
LourG*



### **ADULT LUTHERANS ORGANIZED FOR ACTION**

EncourAGING & Equipping Congregations  
for Older Adult Ministry

**To read about ALOA go to [aloaserves.org](http://aloaserves.org)**

Find out about their history, read their newsletters,  
learn about webinars, retreats and travel opportunities.

# ALOA

ALOA sponsors and works with other organizations on a variety of events for active older adults. These gatherings provide opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship and fun in relaxed, inter-Lutheran settings.

ALOA was formed in the early 1990's by a group of LCMS and ELCA church leaders to help prepare the church for "the age wave." ALOA's mission is:

1. To help congregations strengthen their ministry with and for older adults; and
2. To encourage older adults to affirm their gifts and use those gifts in service to family, church, community and the world.

### ***DRC—Community Solutions to End Homelessness***

This organization offers "Housing First Friday" lunches once a month to discuss topics related to homelessness in Tarrant County. **On Friday, June 10, the topic will be: Community Impact of Homelessness.** Lunch is provided. If you are interested, registration is required and can be done at [www.DRC-Solutions.org](http://www.DRC-Solutions.org). There is no charge; seating is limited to 20. The lunches take place at the Fort Worth Women's Club at 1316 Pennsylvania Ave. Doors open at 11:45 am for the Noon meeting, which will last about one hour.



## ***PASTOR'S MONTH AT A GLANCE***

June 2 Women's Bible Study, Thursday 10 am  
 June 2 Webinar "Why People in Your Community Do Not Attend Your Church (And What You Can Do to Change That)" Thursday Noon  
 June 2 Mutual Ministry Meeting on Zoom, Thursday 6:30 pm  
 June 2, 9, 16, 23 Clergy Cohort Zoom Group, Thursdays 9 am-10 am  
 June 6, 13, 20 Staff Meetings, Mondays Noon-1pm  
 June 7 Men's and Women's Breakfast, Tuesday 8 am  
 June 8 Wine at the Warehouse Food Bank, Wednesday 5:30 pm  
 June 9 Council Meeting, Thursday 6:30 pm  
 June 12 Congregational Meeting, Sunday Noon  
 June 14-15 Both/And Webinar (Maximizing Hybrid Worship) Tuesday-Thursday  
 June 15 MetroWest Conference Zoom Pericope (Lectionary Bible study with clergy), Wednesday 10 am  
 June 16 Council Gathering with DEM Irma Bernales, Thursday 6:30 pm  
 June 27-June 30 Vacation  
 July 1 - July 15 Continuing Education (Leading a group to Europe for the Passion Play in Oberammergau)



April 28, 2022

Rev. Lesley Radius  
 St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Dear Rev. Radius,

Thank you so much for the kind donation of \$1,250 to the Presbyterian Night Shelter. **Your generosity helped us move 1,346 guests out of homelessness in 2021!** With YOUR help, Presbyterian Night Shelter is able to remain a frontline leader in the fight against homelessness in Fort Worth and Tarrant county. Your generosity has a direct impact on the men, women, veterans, and families we serve.

In 2021, **3,878 of our homeless neighbors** received services that address basic needs such as shelter and wellness, critical support services, and access to additional resources through community partner agencies. Equally important to the immediate shelter we offer are the services we provide to support individuals and families in their efforts to end their homelessness. The increased effort of our professional staff to end homelessness would not be effective without the partnership we have with **YOU**. Thank you for advocating for and supporting our guests in their journey from homeless to home.

Thank you,

Toby Owen, Chief Executive Officer

*Thank you very  
 much for this great  
 donation! God bless you*

## MAY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### **PASTOR'S REPORT** – (Pr. Lesley Radius, written report submitted.)

- Appreciation expressed to the Episcopal Church of North Texas Diocese for the gift of a new portable sound system.
- Pastor Lesley has been invited to join Brite Divinity School Board of Visitors and the NTNL Synod Stewardship Team.
- Mutual Ministry Committee has received realigned proposed administrative job descriptions.
- Ongoing discussions with Pastor Irma Banales, NTNL Mission Board, regarding partnering possibilities with Faith Lutheran. Council will be meeting with Pastor Banales on June 16th for brainstorming session.
- Reconciling Works, Lutherans for Full Participation, has requested monetary gift from all participating congregations.

*Motion 05.23.2 Motion made (Lisa Reed) to donate \$100 to Reconciling Works for 2022. Seconded (Charlie Schmidt). Motion carried. Money will come from Outreach Project account.*

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (Faye Youngblood, written report submitted.)

- Attended NTNL Synod Assembly April 29-30, 2022. Bishop Gronberg re-elected for a 6 year term on 1st ballot.
- Met with Family Engagement Specialist for Woodway Elementary School to discuss Go! Center opportunities. Will meet again on May 27th.
- Internship update meeting to prepare for future discussion.

### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (Charlie Schmidt)

- Nominating Committee: - Currently all commission positions have nominees except for Stewardship and Youth.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT** (Aaron Droemer; written report submitted)

- Total cash balance at end of April, 2022 was \$182,634.
- Expenses over income end of April, 2022 was (\$9,861), compared to expenses over income (\$8,335) end of March, 2022.
- Deficit that began in February has continued through April.

### **FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT** (Gary Christensen; written report submitted)

- Contribution Detail Composite April 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022 presented.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

#### Christian Education (Cindy Kohn, written report submitted.)

- VBS Meeting held following May 22nd worship service. • VBS has been cancelled for 2022 due to low registration. Rescheduled for July 24-28, 2023.
- Bill Anderson Cooking Camp and Music Camp will be held July 19-21 and July 26-28, respectively. 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Adult Sunday School will continue during summer.
- Children's Sunday School will not be held during summer.  
Rally Day will be September 11, 2022.

*Continued on next page.*

***MAY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS, continued*****Fellowship** (Lisa Reed, written report submitted.)

- Final Wedgwood Arts Series reception held on May 22nd.

Will provide support for Wedgwood Arts Series receptions for the Fall, Spring 2022/2023 seasons.

**Outreach** (Position Not Filled)

- Gospel Alive Project: Gift cards requested from Wal-Mart to assist Catholic Charities in providing support to Texas families affected by recent wildfires.

**Property** (K.C. Iversen)

- Spring Clean-up Day held on May 14.  
4-year contract for new Electricity provider signed.

**Stewardship** (Phil Beckman) No Report**Worship** (Karin Dunker, written report submitted)

- Worship Committee met April 25th to review Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday services.
- Chancel Choir plans to sing through Pentecost.
- A special choir presentation is being planned for All Saints Sunday.  
Chancel Choir is invited to sing at Lincoln Center in NYC in March, 2023.

**Youth** (Katie Beckman, Youth Rep) • Katie Beckman and Nick Tadi will be heading to summer church camp on June 26th.

## ***SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at 9:30 AM IN PERSON & ONLINE***

**Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall or online as we:**

- dig into scripture
- continue to discover our mission as St. Matthew's, and
- discuss how Church as Community impacts our faith walk.

Led by Mark Vinciguerra



## **JUNE LECTIONARY READINGS**

***Pentecost*****JUNE 5**

Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:24-34  
Romans 8:14-17  
John 14:8-27

***Holy Trinity*****JUNE 12**

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31  
Psalm 8  
Romans 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15

**JUNE 19**

Isaiah 22:19-28  
Psalm 22:19-28  
Galatians 3:23-29  
Luke 8:26-39

**JUNE 26**

1 Kings 19:15-21  
Psalm 16  
Gal. 5:1, 13-25  
Luke 9:51-62

# RECENT PHOTOS



*Donations from St. Matthew's to the Fort Worth Women's Center in April.*

*Synod Assembly Representatives*



*Graduate Recognition May 22*

