

Serving the southwest Fort Worth area since 1953

JULY 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: Phil Beckman
Property: K.C. Iversen
Stewardship: **Position Open**
Worship: Karin Dunker
Youth: Adrienne Frame
Youth Rep: Katie Beckman

FREE SUMMER CAMPS AT ST. MATTHEW'S IN JULY



July 19-21 COOKING CAMP
WITH CHEF DUSTIN RIDDLE
Register at vbspro.events/p/87a609

July 26-28 MUSIC CAMP
WITH CHOIR DIRECTOR
ADAM FRAME



Register at vbspro.events/p/63e987

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

Contact Kelly Riddle by email at gocenter@stmatthews-elca.org or call 817-292-1338



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)

Some people collect coins or dolls or snow globes, I collect stories. I love stories that teach me things, that help me see the hope of the human spirit and just remind me that God loves the world.

This month, I was able to collect two great stories that I hope you appreciate and learn from them as much as I have.

The first one reminds us as Isaiah 11:6 tell us, **“A little child shall lead them.”**

On Sunday, June 19th, as part of the sermon about the unclean man that Jesus healed, a healing prayer opportunity was offered to the congregation. Several adults participated. However, there was this one precious child who came up to the altar railing. I asked her what she would like to pray about, she said, “For my brother, for my new baby, for my mommy and daddy and for safety.”

My heart melted as I prayed with and for this amazing child of God. I said to her mom, “I have just melted.” The mom said with a tear in her eye that it was her daughter’s idea to come up. ‘A little child shall lead them.’

My second story occurred when I participated in a former intern’s ordination last month. Her preacher was fantastic and really got to the point of what ministry might look like. The preacher talked about how all of us, as the priesthood of all believers, want these big transformational moments that books are written about. The pastor reminded all of us, that most of the time, **ministry is about “doing the dishes”** (you know those ordinary, hum drum kind of activities), being present with others, creating community and being open to the movement of the Spirit.

I share both these stories wondering how the stories in which you have participated this month or the stories you have witnessed taught you and shaped you as you went about your everyday life. Paying attention to the stories is important.

St. Matthew’s has its stories, just like we each have our own story and our families have their story. **On October 22, 2022**, St. Matthew’s will have a chance to look at their stories and dream where God is calling them into creating new stories filled with God’s abundant love and grace.

Pr. Irma Banales, Director of Evangelical Mission, NT-NL Synod and Pr. Alicia Thompson-Summers, NT-NL Renewal Team, will be leading us in a Saturday retreat. Please mark you calendar now and plan to attend. We need everyone to participate so we can live into God’s preferred and promised future. We will be sharing more detailed information later in the summer, but here is a preview (see next page):

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DISCOVERING YOUR CONGREGATION'S FUTURE: A Discovery and Planning Process

"Discovering Your Congregation's Future" is a study and planning process revolving around five questions. The primary purpose for taking this journey is to re-discover God's mission for congregations and to re-root congregations in the communities they've been planted to be about God's mission. These five questions are:

1. What is our congregation's purpose/role in God's mission?
2. What is our congregation's story?
3. Who are our neighbors?
4. Who are we?
5. How is God calling us to respond?

Remember our story is not finished yet. St. Matthew's still has many more chapters to write of how we did God's work with our hands.

Come be a part of the story.

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

THANK YOU FROM RECONCILING WORKS

Dear Partners at St. Matthew's

Thank you for your generous gift of \$100! Your partner contribution deeply impacts the reach of welcome the RIC (Reconciling in Christ) program brings to God's beloved. It is a joy to engage in that holy ministry alongside your support.

*Peace,
Ashlei Cramer*



COFFEE AND COMMUNITY SUNDAYS

Join us one Sunday each month during the summer 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 June, we heard from John McGinnis from Big

Brothers, Big Sisters of Tarrant County. **Grab a cup of coffee and meet us in the Fellowship Hall, 9:00-9:30 am, on the following dates!**



July 10 - Catholic Charities Ft. Worth

August 7 - Our Community, Our Kids



CHILDREN'S SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL MUSIC "FUN" DAMENTALS

WITH OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR, ADAM FRAME



9:30 am every Sunday through August!

If your child can read, they are invited to this fun class. As the class grows in their musical ability, there will be opportunities to sing in worship. Questions? Contact Adam Frame at music@stmatthews-elca.org.



ADULT LUTHERANS ORGANIZED FOR ACTION

EncourAGING & Equipping Congregations
for Older Adult Ministry

To read about ALOA go to 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, July 8, the topic will be: Affordable and Available? A look at the state of housing in Tarrant County.** Lunch is provided. If you are interested, registration is required and can be done at 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.



DRC

Community Solutions to End Homelessness

The Season of Pentecost During the Summer

The lectionary texts this summer offer a rich variety of themes related to summer experiences: travel, visits with family and friends, a break from school, and perhaps hosting people who come to visit us. Hospitality and hosting are major themes throughout the summer lectionary. Jesus sends the disciples out to preach the gospel, instructing them to be guests in the homes of others; Abram and Sarai host strangers who prove to be angels; Martha works to host Jesus and his disciples . . . What can it mean that God chooses to act in the role of guest and calls on believers to do the same? Do we anticipate the visits of angels in disguise? How do we ensure that everyone, guest and host alike, has access to “the better part” (being in the company and listening to Jesus).

Numerous gospel texts this summer: make us ponder who we consider to be insiders and outsiders, tell us about healing miracles, and push us to consider who is our neighbor.

You are invited to come deeper into worship these next few months!

What do gender diverse, gender dysphoric and transgender mean?

Q&A: A Physician’s Approach to Gender-Affirming Care

From the Texas Medical Association’s LGBTQ Health Section

What does it mean when someone is gender diverse?

To be gender diverse means the person’s gender identity, expression, or even perception does not confirm to the norms and stereotypes others expect.

What is gender dysphoria?

Gender dysphoria is the feeling of discomfort or distress felt in some whose gender identity differs from the sex assigned to them at birth.

Are all young people who are gender diverse gender dysphoric?

No. Some people can identify as gender diverse and feel at ease in their bodies. They don’t feel the need for medical intervention.

Do all people who are gender diverse also identify as transgender?

No. People are typically considered transgender only when gender diverse traits remain persistent, consistent, and insistent over time. It’s very common for young people to at first question their gender identity and then, as they age, feel more comfortable with the sex they were assigned at birth. What happens, they frequently are no longer considered gender diverse.

What is the purpose of gender-affirming care?

Gender-affirming care is developmentally appropriate care that meets all gender diverse and transgender patients where they are in understanding their gender identity. Most importantly, this gives young people time and space to explore their gender identity in a non-judgmental environment. In most cases it does *not* involve medication and it *never* involves gender-reassignment surgery for young people under age 18.

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How is gender-affirming care carried out?

A physician starts by asking the patient in a non-judgmental way how they identify in terms of gender. If someone says they identify in a way that isn't consistent with the sex they were assigned at birth, the physician follows up by asking. "Is there another name you would like to use?" Or, "Are there different pronouns that would make you feel more comfortable so that we can put you at ease and talk about this more?" A 2018 University of Texas at Austin study showed that physicians who used these steps alone can improve gender-diverse youth's mental health significantly. They can alleviate the depression many transgender young people feel and reduce suicidal thinking.

When are medicines used in gender-affirming care?

In some cases, young people feel gender dysphoria so significantly that medicines are needed for the treatment. The decision to use them typically is made in a long-term relationship between a physician and the patient's family. These discussions may also include a psychiatrist, a therapist, and sometimes a school counselor, and they come only after a thorough multidisciplinary assessment.

What medicines are used?

In some cases, physicians use puberty blockers to pause puberty temporarily and allow these patients to gain a better understanding of themselves and their gender identity. The blockers help keep these young people from even more dysphoric – and potentially anxious or suicidal - because of irreversible changes such as a dropping voice or growing breasts. These are the same puberty blockers used to treat precocious puberty in patients who are cisgender – those whose personal identity matches their sex assigned to them at birth

What happens after puberty blockers are used?

Health care professionals closely follow these young people, physically and psychologically. While these young people are on puberty blockers, their family members and health care team carry on a conversation about the next steps.

What are the next steps?

The patient's family faces a choice: either remove the puberty blockers and allow the young patient's body to develop on the sex assigned at birth, or use prescribed hormones to achieve gender transition. This is often a difficult decision for families to make.

Are these steps reversible?

The effects of puberty blockers are completely reversible once the medication is no longer used. The changes caused by the hormones are sometimes reversible but in other cases they're not. For instance, if someone grows breasts, the breasts will not shrink after the hormones are withdrawn.

Is gender-affirming care ever used in those younger than age 18?

No. Surgery is never used for gender assignment among young people. Only adults can use this option. In some cases, people under 18 have chest reconstructive surgery due to dysphoria caused by breasts.

Is gender-affirming care the evidence-based standard of care?

Yes. More than 20 years of scientific evidence show this is the best way to care for young patients with gender dysphoria.

JULY LECTIONARY READINGS

JULY 3

Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:1-16
Luke 10:1,11, 16-20

JULY 10

Deut. 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10
Col. 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

JULY 17

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15
Col. 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

JULY 24

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Col. 2:6-19
Luke 11:1-13

JULY 31

Ecc. 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Col. 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21



O Love How Deep



LUTHERAN HYMN FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 18, 2022 4:30 PM
Meyerson Symphony Center
2301 Flora St., Dallas, TX 75201

*Tickets may be purchased **online on your own** after July 17th. Cost is \$15-\$30 through [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) (search for Lutheran Hymn Festival, Dallas). **There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex in mid-August for those who have bought tickets and wish to carpool from St. Matthew's.***

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 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Grateful for partnership with St. Christopher Episcopal Church. Administrative staffs from both churches meet once/month to share ideas, calendars, and other issues.
- Work in progress by St. Christopher's and the Diocese for their new Priest-in-Charge.
- Pastor Lesley will be St. Christopher's supply preacher for the July 17th, 24th & 31st services.
- Thanks to Mark Vinciguerra and Adult Sunday School for creating Coffee & Community sessions once/month before Sunday School hour.
- RIC Welcome Statement will be shared at Congregational Meeting on June 12th

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

- Follow-up meetings with Woodway & Bruce Shulkey Elementary Schools to discuss Go! Center opportunities. Transportation is an issue. Discussion and planning continue.
- Internship update: Communication sent to Assistant to Bishop, Pastor Kris Totzke stating "...it would not be good stewardship at this time for St. Matthew's to commit to an intern..."
- Wedgwood Arts: Steering committee appointed to work with Adam Frame on future Arts program. Committee appointed: Lisa Reed; Phil Beckman; Marcia Boggs.
- Safety Issues: Evaluation with K.C. Iversen, Property Commission Director. Congregational awareness needed.

Fire emergency: Exit strategy; Location of fire alarms; extinguishers

Weather emergency: Safety location

Medical emergency: AED location; CPR training; wheelchairs; first aid

Intruder emergency: discussion to continue

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Charlie Schmidt, written report submitted.)

- Mutual Ministry
 - o Office staff job descriptions have been updated. Will be reviewed with staff and implemented August 1st.
 - o Sunday morning nursery/childcare. Statement included in every Sunday bulletin stating availability.
 - o Suggestion of "children's church" during sermon time. Discussion to continue with nursery coordinator, attendants, parents.
 - o 8:15 worship service. Continued discussion to take place once St. Christopher's Priest-in-Charge is in place.
- Nominating Committee
 - o No nominees for Youth or Stewardship Commissions. Election is June 12th.
 - o Continued discussion of volunteer committee member leading Stewardship Commission but not serving on Council.

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

- Total cash balance at end of May, 2022 was \$180,523.
- Envelope offerings have begun to slide, falling below budget of \$25,000/month.
- Expenses have been managed.

JUNE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS, continued

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

- Contribution Detail Composite May 1, 2022 – May 31, 2022 presented.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Christian Education (Cindy Kohn)

- 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 with addition of Coffee & Community sessions once/month 9:00 – 9:30. Various agencies in community will share their mission & ministry.
- Music FUNdamentals class for 1st graders and older led by Adam Frame during Sunday School hour.

Fellowship (Lisa Reed)

- Potluck to be held June 12th for Congregational Meeting & New Member Reception.
- Reviewing narthex appearance with Pastor Lesley for welcoming and inviting improvements

Outreach (Position Not Filled)

- Gospel Alive Project: School supplies for Bruce Shulkey & Woodway Elementary Schools.
- St. Christopher's has requested use of fellowship hall & kitchen to host a fundraiser for "Hopewallah, Inc.", a 501c3 which supports medical treatment for people with leprosy in Hyderabad, India.

Property (K.C. Iversen, written report submitted)

- Bid submitted for pest control service. Will continue to use "over the counter" products before contracting with a service. Council members asked to be alert to insect problems and be pro-active in addressing the problems.
- Additional signage and emergency procedures to be added for safety and security needs for congregation. Fire, weather, medical emergencies as well as intruder issues are being addressed.
- Aging AC equipment being monitored.

Stewardship (Phil Beckman)

- Counters appointed for June & July.

Youth (Katie Beckman, Youth Rep)

- Katie Beckman and Nick Tadi will be attending summer church camp June 26th - July 1st. John & Lisa Reed will drive them to and from camp.





WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Conversation and Connection

We will resume weekly connections on Thursday mornings in September. Watch for future announcements about our fellowship!

Let us pray: Come, Lord, be present with me this summer. Restore my faith through rest, play, travel, reading in the shade, drinking cold drinks, and other summertime activities. Bring me peace, bring me the courage to perhaps try something new, and let the child in my heart experience your love. Amen.

July 2022 NT-NL Synod Prayer List:

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

- July 3** NT-NL Synod Coaches / ELCA Coaching Ministry / LEAD Journey Locations
- July 10** Calvary, San Angelo / Grace, Slaton / NT-NL Leadership Formation
- July 17** Salem, Rosebud / The Table, Frisco / Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)
- July 24** First, Waco / St. John, Wilson / Conferencia Latina
- July 31** St. John's Dallas / King of Glory, Dallas / Hospice & Hospital Chaplains

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

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

For ELCA News, go to www.elca.org

SUMMER GOSPEL-ALIVE

We are collecting school supplies for Bruce Shulkey and Woodway Elementary Schools through early August. Although the Fort Worth ISD provides supplies, it is always helpful for teachers to have extra items on hand. Bring your supplies to the marked box in the narthex.

- 24-ct. Crayola colored pencils**
- Glue sticks**
- Elmer's glue, 4 oz.**
- Wide-ruled spiral notebooks**
- Yellow highlighters**
- 12-inch ruler – standard & metric markings**

- 24-ct. Crayola crayons**
- 1" 3-ring binders (any solid color)**
- Large pink erasers**
- Pencil pouch for 3-ring binder**
- Dry-erase markers**

