

# 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

AUGUST 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

## SCHOOL-YEAR BLESSING SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

**Time: 8:15 and 11:00 Worship Services**

***In order to: bless students, teachers and school administrators as the new school year begins.***

***If you are a student of any age, a teacher or administrator: you are encouraged to bring your backpack, a textbook, or any other item you may be using in school.***

***St. Matthew's wishes our students of all ages and their teachers to know that their work is important, and that as a congregation we will pray for God's blessings for them in their learning and teaching.***



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

## ***FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK(TOP)***

***"I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for."***

Jeremiah 29:11(*The Message*)

"'Tis good Lord to be here." I am glad to be back from an amazing trip to Europe and the especially the Passion Play. You will find some pictures of the sites we visited for your viewing pleasure in the back of the newsletter.

While vacation and continuing education was renewing for the spirit, the question of "what is next" is looming at us. Of course, we will continue with our normal activities like preparing for Sunday school, preaching, visiting, administrative work, etc. However, along with the "normal" activities, we need, to as a faith community, keep asking the questions, "What is God up to?" and "How are we going to partner with God's mission and ministry?"

While journeying with a church in Belton, MO through transformation and renewal, I asked the above questions. A very faithful member of Lord of Love said, "But Pastor, we have never asked those questions before." My reply was, "Do you think that is why we are where we are now? (LOL was in decline and considering closing when I arrived). Her response was, "Perhaps. We have nothing to lose to try it." For LOL, that was a defining moment. The questions were asked; a brave soul expressed her fear and was willing, even amid that fear, to take a leap of faith.

Dear Siblings in Christ, that is what we need to do at St. Matthew's, we need to take a leap of faith. It is not easy, and it is not comfortable. I once had a redeveloper say to a congregation, "We need to get comfortable with being uncomfortable." For St. Matthew's to live into God's preferred and promised future, we need to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. I know that is hard work. I know some of you wonder why we should change when perhaps to you everything appears to be fine.

Status quo does not equate fine. St. Matthew's is a church, like many mainline churches in the US, in decline. Our attendance is shrinking, the average age of those worshipping is rising, giving of time, talent and treasure continues to shrink. The same volunteers are doing the same jobs year after year and taking on more jobs as the volunteer pool shrinks. These are all signs of a church in decline.

We can bury our heads in the sand. We can refuse to look at the reality and go on like we have been. That however will not change anything. We have a God who invites us to take that leap of faith, promising us a preferred and promised future. We have a God who promises us new life. Are you willing and ready to take a leap of faith with me?

There are ways to take a leap of faith this fall. Each Commission is being asked by the Stewardship Commission and the Council to meet in August and spend some time

*(Continued next page.)*

visioning, asking the questions, "What is God up to?" and "How in 2023 are we going to partner with God's mission and ministry?"

After the questions have been asked and answered, the commission will list the resources they need to accomplish their vision. This list of resources includes monetary resources and will form the foundation/guideposts of our 2023 budget. **If you are on a commission, make sure you attend the August meeting** your Director of the Commission will be arranging. **Before the meeting, spend time in prayer-filled thought about the questions**, "What is God up to?" and "How are we going to partner with God's mission and ministry?" If you are not on a commission, please let me know. It would be a blessing to help you discern where God is inviting you to serve using your many gifts.

**On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:00 am-1:00 pm, the NT-NL Synod Renewal Team will be with us to lead us in a visioning journey, asking these questions:**

1. **What is St. Matthew'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?**

I invite you to hold these questions in prayer and to take notes to bring to the October 22<sup>nd</sup> gathering. Your input and discernment are vital to this process. **EVERYONE'S input is needed and valued.** Please put this date and time on your calendar now, so you will be sure to be available to be with us and participate in this leap of faith into God's preferred and promised future. I can't wait to see what God has planned for our part of God's work, with our hands. Thanks for taking a leap of faith with me.

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

## *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



## **COFFEE AND COMMUNITY SUNDAYS**

Join us on August 7 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 July, we heard from Catholic Charities. **Grab a cup of coffee and meet us in the Fellowship Hall, 9:00-9:30 am:**



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

## ***AN INVITATION FROM ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH***

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ.

Please mark your calendars,

**WHAT-** Rt. Rev. Babbili Prabhudass Memorial/ Hopewallah Inc.  
India Leprosy Mission Fundraising Event.

**WHY** - Raise money to provide HOPE, FAITH, & MIRACLES in the lives of poor, helpless, indigent, neglected, untouchable persons afflicted with leprosy & families

**WHEN** - Saturday, October 15th, 2022, 6-9 pm.

**WHERE** - St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 5709 Wedgwood Drive,  
Fort Worth, Texas, 76133.

**TICKETS-** Are available for \$ 20/person - see Andy Babbili on Sunday mornings.  
There will be a catered Indian mildly spicy delicious dinner & entertainment, silent auction, raffle prizes & few Indian items for sale.

Your prayers, donations, gifts & auction items are very important, very welcome, and appreciated (see below). Your help and contributions to support this India Leprosy medical ministry are tax deductible.

Hopewallah Inc. is an IRS Tax exempt charitable organization. Checks may be payable to St. Christopher Episcopal Church marked as India Leprosy Outreach, or mail directly to Hopewallah Inc. with a memo - leprosy charity IRS 501(c)3; mailing address is 7104 Quail Ridge Road, FW. TX. 76132.

Kindly await more upcoming details.  
Thank you & prayerfully yours.  
God bless.

Latha & Andy Babbili  
St.Christopher EC.



### **Donations of the following items will be sought for the October 15 event:**

1. Large & small bandaids, alcohol, betadine swabs/wipes, cotton wound dressing bandages or wraps,
2. Ace wraps, adhesive wrap/reusable bandages; ankle, knee, wrist, elbow wraps; splints,
3. Antibiotic, antifungal, antiseptic swabs, gels, ointments,
4. Baby and adult aspirin, Ibuprofen, plain Tylenol tabs,
5. Recently expired or unexpired antibiotics, diabetes, blood pressure & sleeping aids, dental hygiene products,
6. Corrective glasses, sun glasses, foldable walking canes (for easy packing),
7. Blood pressure and sugar checking apparatuses,
8. Any generous donation of auction/raffle worthy items to be used on Oct.15th event.
9. PRAYERS by one and all.

## PASTOR'S MONTH AT A GLANCE



August—Work with commissions to gather for visioning and budget needs to accomplish God's mission and ministry in 2023

August 1, 22, 23 - Provide office coverage

August 3 - Meet with American Family

August 6 - 11:00 am Marj Rudolph Memorial Service

August 7 and 21 - ELW Worship at 8:15 am

August 7 - Facilitate Community and Coffee and Adult Bible Study

Week of August 8 - Meet with Clayton After School program at Woodway Elementary

August 11 - 6:30 pm Council Meeting

August 14 - Backpack Blessing

August 19-20 - Chaplain for NT-NL Candidacy Committee

August 21 - Seminarian Olivia Riddle preaches at 8:15 and 11:00 am services

August 28 - Scheduled Baptism



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

June 23, 2022

Dear St Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$990.00 to the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). [For Mission Builders.]

*Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).*

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

With your gifts, you are putting God's love into action - living faithfully, witnessing boldly, serving joyfully and giving abundantly. Your generosity allows this church to continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ by equipping leaders, positioning communities to grow and sharing the love of a faithful and abiding God.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

With gratitude,

*Rachel Wind*

Rachel Wind  
Executive for Philanthropy



# 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**. Cost is \$15-\$20 by going to this website: [lutheranhymnfestival.org](http://lutheranhymnfestival.org) (click on "Festivals"). 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.

### August 2022 NT-NL Synod Prayer List:

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

- August 7** Kyrie Pub Church, Ft. Worth / Ascension, Garland / First Responders  
**August 14** Hope, Comanche / St. Peter, Malone / Lutheran Campus Ministry  
**August 21** Grace, Ft. Worth / **St. Matthew's, Ft. Worth** / Teachers and Professors  
**August 28** Faith, Wichita Falls / Christ the Servant, Allen / Medical Personnel

**We especially pray for Leadership Formation and the Parish Lay Ministry Academy**

*For NT-NL News, go to [www.ntnl.org](http://www.ntnl.org)*

*For ELCA News, go to [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)*

## SUMMER GOSPEL-ALIVE

We are collecting school supplies for Bruce Shulkey and Woodway Elementary Schools through mid-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



## COVID Isn't Over Yet!

Just when we thought we could let down our guard...COVID is resurging. There was an article in the Star Telegram titled, "*BA.5 is A Different Beast Among Strains of Omicron.*" The article states, "a prior infection, including an omicron infection as recent as last month, no longer provides robust protection from reinfection."

And...don't I know it. Several weeks ago, we took our first big trip since the pandemic began. We wore our masks on the plane and all public transportation and in public places where there were large gatherings of people. Yet, three days before we were due to come home, I started with a sore throat, runny nose, and cough. I did a rapid test for COVID and was negative. The next day, I felt worse... my cough was increasing, and I swear I lost five pounds through my nose! Just in case I had COVID, I was vigilant about wearing my mask around others and tested again when we got home. Sure enough...I was positive. As with many who have COVID...tests are often negative when first symptomatic, because your body doesn't have enough "viral load" to test positive.

Prior to leaving on vacation, I had called my physician to get a prescription for Paxlovid, which is an oral pill that is taken as soon as a person knows they have COVID. I started the medication immediately. The very next day, my symptoms were MUCH better. I took the medication as prescribed for the next five days, never getting any sicker.

With all that being said...COVID was a strange illness for me and unlike anything I had experienced. Even though I never got very ill, I developed the "brain fog" that everyone spoke about. I never lost my sense of taste or smell, but my sense of taste was altered; wine no longer and still doesn't taste good to me (OMG!!!) My cough and runny nose lingered, and I just felt icky...even after I tested negative. Also, a new symptom developed...I tired very easily.

I had a regular check-up scheduled with my doctor after my negative test. During the visit, she told me that many patients she had seen reported the same things as I had, and the symptoms lasted up to one month after testing negative. I am now three weeks out and still have all the symptoms, albeit they are getting better. The main thing is...that I feel the "fog" is finally lifting.

I am double vaccinated and double boosted, yet I still developed a symptomatic case of COVID. I can't imagine what my case of COVID would have been had I not been vaccinated and taken the Paxlovid. So...what can you do to protect yourself? According to the Star Telegram article:

**Vaccinations** - Keep your vaccinations and boosters up to date. Without them, a person is 7.5 times more likely to be hospitalized and 14.5 times more likely to die from the disease. Boosters this fall will be reformulated to work against new subvariations. The should be available in October or November.

**Masks** - While masks are no longer required in most indoor public places, they continue to offer a worthwhile layer of protection.

**Gatherings** - Outdoor gatherings are preferable indoors. If you must gather inside, make sure there is good ventilation.

**Testing** - Remember your initial rapid test may be negative. If you are symptomatic, try to avoid others and if that isn't possible, wear a mask. Be sure to retest after a few days.

If you didn't order your last set of free tests from the government, do so now so that they are readily available should you develop symptoms. [www.covid.gov/tests/](http://www.covid.gov/tests/)

*(Continued on next page.)*

*Medical Saints, Continued from p. 8*

Paxlovid – Once you are negative, start taking Paxlovid. The FDA just ruled that pharmacists can now prescribe it. There is a caveat though...Paxlovid is contraindicated when taking certain medications. Your doctor or pharmacist will help you determine if you are a candidate for Paxlovid or not.

COVID is out there...everywhere...and it is probably just a matter of time before it finds you!

Barbara Greer, RN, MSN

Medical Saints Committee, St. Christopher Episcopal Church

## AUGUST LECTIONARY READINGS

### AUGUST 7

Genesis 15:1-6  
Psalm 33:12-22  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16  
Luke 12:32-40

### AUGUST 14

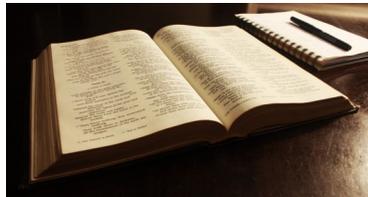
Jeremiah 23:23-29  
Psalm 82  
Hebrews 11:29—12:2  
Luke 12:49-56

### AUGUST 21

Isaiah 58:9b-14  
Psalm 103:1-8  
Hebrews 12:18-29  
Luke 13:10-17

### AUGUST 28

Proverbs 25:6-7  
Psalm 112  
Hebrews 13:1-16  
Luke 14:1, 7-14



## AN EVENING PRAYER



*Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give your angels and saints charge over those who sleep. Tend your sick ones, O Lord, Christ, Rest your weary ones, Bless your dying ones, Soothe your suffering ones, Pity your afflicted ones, Shield your joyous ones, And all for your love's sake. Amen.*

St. Augustine, North Africa (350-430) in "All Will Be Well - A Gathering of Healing Prayers," Augsburg Fortress, 1998



## 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:** *Holy Spirit, think through me till your ideas are my ideas. Amen.*

*Amy Carmichael, India (1868-1951); in "Soul Weavings, A Gathering of Women's Prayers," edited by Lyn Klug, Augsburg Fortress, 1996*

# RECENT PHOTOS



*Baptism of  
Sammie Jane  
July 24, 2022*



*Europe and the  
Oberammergau  
Passion Play  
Early July, 2022*