

SEPTEMBER
2021

The Encounter

Monthly Newsletter of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church



"Proclaiming Christ Crucified"
Established 1892

Our Mission

As a Lutheran community of faith, we continue our history of proclaiming Christ crucified through Word and Sacrament in joyful service to God and our neighbor.

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



Sunday School Classes begin September 5 at 9:45 a.m. Children's classes are ages 3-4, K-2nd, 3rd-5th, and Middle School. High School and College students can attend one of two adult classes: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* led by Becky Howard or Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians taught by Pr. Zumwalt.

Looking for a place to serve?



The **Fellowship Team** coordinates fellowship events, meals and receptions for the congregation, such as the luncheon for St. Mathew's Sunday and the reception for our Confirmands on Pentecost. Their meetings are the first Saturday of every month at 11 a.m. If you're interested in joining the team or would like more information, contact Karen Schmoke at swids73@hotmail.com or Liz Rappold at lizt3216@hotmail.com.



The **Social Ministry Team** supports both local and global social and outreach ministries in various ways. Some of the organizations they help are Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Family Promise (formerly WIHN), Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Program through Samaritan's Purse, and purchasing farm animals with Lenten collections for the ELCA Good Gifts program. Social Ministry meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 11 a.m. If you are interested in joining them or have questions, contact Judy Daniels at daniels_judy@bellsouth.net.

Hospice Meals Program

Hospice is restarting their program of having volunteers deliver food for patients' families. We are signed up to bring dinner on Friday, September 24th.

Due to COVID there have been a few important changes to the program:

- Food can no longer be prepared or cooked at home, and must be commercially prepared and pre-packed in individual portions. Suggestions would be individual sandwiches, store bought cups of soup, or a meal from Chick-Fil-A, Bojangles, etc.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Sue Mowrey at mowreysu@gmail.com or 465-2025.



Attention all members 50+

We are looking at re-starting the monthly **OWL's** (**O**lder **W**iser **L**utherans) Luncheons in October.

Help will especially be needed with set-up and clean up.

If you are interested please sign up on the board in the Commons.



Greetings from Pastor Sam

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our daughter has been blessed with the very best of godparents both near and far. Her godparents at St. Matthew's often sit with her, her mother, and the fur baby at the services of God's house. At each holiday and important milestone, her local godparents and we share a meal together and often a delicious cake of some chocolate variety. Gifts exchanged are thoughtful and include the kind of encouragement that stresses growing in Christ and not merely in age. We are family together and cherish the love we share as an echo and intimation of the great love the Lord God has for us in Christ. Because our daughter's biological grandparents are all with the Lord, these beloved godparents and the time together are not only important. They are precious.

Until my sister Donna's death in February, our daughter also had an aunt and uncle as another set of godparents, who, typically once a year hosted us in their home for several days. Our girl got to see where Dad grew up and to hear stories about how Dad really wasn't always a pastor. Because they lived on acreage with cattle, Texas was a very special place to visit. A lot of love was packed into three or four days, and, then, throughout the year there were Sunday night phone calls and always cards in the mail encouraging growing in Christ and not merely in age. It was, then, bittersweet this summer when another birthday rolled around. A thoughtful distant uncle and godfather sent greetings and a gift and apologized that he was not as eloquent as his wife. There is sadly a season for everything.

So... the day will come when all those who have nurtured our daughter in faith and life will have completed our race and will pray for her continued growth in Christ from a distant shore. We will, of course, be present as part of the Church Triumphant, then, and with the Lord as our daughter comes to the services of God's house weekly with empty hands to receive her Lord Jesus in the host and cup. We pray and have prayed that her husband will be a godly man, who has loved the Lord long before he ever met and married her, and that they will raise their little ones to love the Lord their God and His Church as much as parents and godparents once taught and modeled.

Life is difficult. It always has been. Ever since the tempter asked, "Did God really say," there have been alternate stories to hear and by which to be seduced. Each child needs a godly father and mother, godly grandparents and godparents, godly Sunday School teachers, mentors, and friends. These are not merely ancient, inherited patterns but part of the actual design of God's good creation and of His new creation, the Church. It is not that a godly single parent or grandparent cannot do the work. It just makes it that much more difficult, which is why God made us male and female in His image and created us to be fruitful and multiply. There is much to be gleaned from the great overarching story known as the Bible about how both to marry and not marry and to raise and not raise godly children. We need godly parents, grandparents, godparents, and friends to help our children to grow in Christ and not merely in age, narcissism, dysfunction, and debauchery. Even adults need godly friends to keep them growing.

Parents, grandparents, and godparents: will you keep your promises to bring the children to the services of God's house, and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, to provide for their instruction in the Christian faith, that living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ?

Growing in Christ and not merely in age doesn't just happen. It certainly doesn't happen by watching YouTube church week after week, by dropping the kid off at sports practice, or even sending them to the cool, hip church of smiling legalism and entertainment, where life is always fun, but that does not know what it means to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and the prayers (Acts 2:42). We practice the faith so that it will be there when we need it. Life is difficult, but it is much less difficult than it has to be when you practice the Christian faith in a caring community with godly parents, grandparents, godparents, mentors, and friends. And, parents, you can't give what you don't have. So... show up, stay connected, yes, be at worship and Bible study, too!

I love you,



Pastor Sam Zumwalt+

szumwalt@bellsouth.net



Church Council Meeting - August 12, 2021

- Council approved the hiring of Annie Jewell as the Adult Choir Director on a part-time basis with a 10-month probationary period and a salary of \$21,500.
- Council amended the Continuing Resolution for Contribution of Record (C8.02.c.A19) due to the retirement of the Organ Project Fund debt in May of 2021. Anyone who has contributed to that fund prior to May 2021 still meets the qualification of making a contribution of record.
- Council approved adding insurance coverage for the \$23,500 digital sign at a cost of \$713 until the end of our insurance year in February 2022. This premium will be paid from funds already set aside for the sign. The cost will be budgeted in 2022.
- Council approved the motions to be made at the Special Called Congregation Meeting scheduled for August 22, 2021 at which the congregation will vote on the adoption of the Constitution and Bylaws of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church with provisos for two Lutheran denominations under consideration for affiliation.
- Council called a Special Congregation Meeting on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 1:30 pm in McSwain Activity Center for the purpose of taking a second vote to terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). If two-thirds of the voting members present at the Special Congregation Meeting vote to adopt the termination of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church's relationship with the ELCA, the voting members will subsequently vote at the same meeting, by a majority of voting members present, to affiliate either with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) or the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

| <u>July 2021</u> | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Operating Fund</u> | <u>Month</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
| Revenues | 30,240.88 | 257,376.33 |
| Expenses | <u>35,059.31</u> | <u>265,870.09</u> |
| Income/(Loss) | (4,818.43) | (8,493.76) |

FAITH WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Faith Circle will be discussing the book *The Women of the Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream. We will learn more about Sarah and Hagar, Rachel and Leah, Tamar and Ruth, Deborah and Jael, and many others.

In the first chapter of the book we will get to know Sarah and Hagar better. If you don't have a book available, you may read Genesis 11:27- 12:20; 16:1-16; 17:15-19; 18:1-15; 20:1-18; 21:1-21 and 23:1-9.

All women are invited to attend the meetings on the second Tuesday of the month, at 10am, in McCombs. The first meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, September 14th.



New Altar Flower Chart

The new altar flower chart has been posted in the Commons through August 2022.



Please fill out the yellow information sheet when you sign up

with your dedication for the bulletin, and mark if you would like to take your flowers or donate them to homebound members or those in the hospital. Invoices for flowers will be mailed from the church at the beginning of each month.



To the Congregation of St. Matthews,

It has been my honor to serve as your Choir Director for the last four years. You have shown such appreciation and acceptance for me and my efforts. Working with your dedicated, faithful choir has been an absolute joy. Pastor Sam has been incredibly supportive and encouraging. My dear, talented friend Bill helped make my job musically rewarding and enormously fun as well! I thank God for each of you.

The reception was such a nice way to end my tenure as choir director. Thanks to everyone who made it happen. Being able to chat with many of you, receiving your expressions of gratitude and well wishes, truly warmed my heart, and was greatly appreciated. While I will miss being your choir director, I am looking forward to the next phase of life. I pray for God's continued blessings on this congregation. So long for now but I'll be seeing you!

*Blessings,
Jan*

From the Foreign Missions Team...

Join the Search

The Foreign Missions Team works to create an awareness of mission needs outside our church walls in other lands. The team members conduct research into potential missions that members of the congregation may wish to know about and, perhaps, support. The Team shares its "field reports" to help spread the word about what it finds to enrich the knowledge of world outreach and ways you may be able to support the work of God.



Dave Rutland, Keri Rutland, Lou Painter, and Jenny Painter are currently on the Team, but you may want to join and help also. Please feel free to join us, or send us your recommendations of foreign missions you may know about. Contact Jon Lindsay at lind1947@bellsouth.net if you want to help or make suggestions.

Upcoming Worship and Events

October 2 -- Blessing of the Animals, 10:00am

October 2-3 -- Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Eucharists 6:00pm; 8:30, and 11:00am; Lifechain, 2:00pm

October 4 -- Evening Prayer, 6:00pm

October 6 -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00pm

October 9-10 -- Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Eucharists 6:00pm; 8:30 (Contemporary) and 11:00am

October 11 -- Evening Prayer, 6:00pm

October 13 -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00pm

October 16-17 -- Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, Stewardship Sunday, Eucharists 6:00pm; 8:30, and 11:00am

October 18 -- Evening Prayer, 6:00pm

October 20 -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00pm

October 23-24 -- Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost, Eucharists 6:00pm; 8:30 (Contemporary) and 11:00am;
Hymn Festival with David Cherwein, 4:00pm

October 25 -- Evening Prayer, 6:00pm

October 27 -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00pm

October 30 -- Reformation Prayer Retreat with Pr. Carl Voges, 8:00am; Trunk or Treat, 3:00pm

October 30-31 -- Feast of the Reformation, Eucharists 6:00pm; 8:30, and 11:00am

Gifts to Honor and Remember

IN MEMORY OF BOB BYRNE, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Susan Stevenson, Don and Sherry Warren.

IN MEMORY OF ALBERT ROLLER, a gift to Stephen Ministry by Saville and Linda Riesz; a gift to C-ing the Way Forward by Margaret C. Brown, Kathy Nguyen.

IN MEMORY OF ARLENE ROBIE, a gift to Altar Guild by Susan Stone, Barbara Ervin, Elaine Baker.

IN MEMORY OF KIM SABBAGH, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Tom and Hanne Flyth.

IN HONOR OF DAVID MEDLIN, JR., a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Patricia L. Medlin.



Our Christian sympathy is extended to...

Karin Cook on the death of her sister-in-law, Demeyer Pearson.

Judy Benson on the death of her cousin, Malcom Gainey.

Karen Clark, and family, on the death of her son, John Corey McDonald.

MEMBERS:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Nancy Fauser | Al Birnstein | Lon Ostby | Leslie Long |
| Denis Hall | Arthur Pease | Barbara Teigland-Duff | Howard Beuerman |
| Regina Ryder | Judy Daniels | Laura Matthess | Amy Beall |
| Keith Farmer | Bill Baldwin | Micki Matthess | Dan and Celey Cumbo |
| Donna Siegmund | Mike Thompson | John Raia | Dave Sundberg |
| Alexandra Schwartz | Janet Hall | Jane Dove | Lucy Hieronymus |
| Kenn Slocum | Helen Knoll | Ed Ludacer | Harrison Rutland |
| Ken Manning | Arthur Moore | Butch Ruefle | Peggy Davis |
| Harry Comeskey | Laura Gray | Charlotte Thompson | Maggie Hoyer |
| Pat Mahl | Jack and Marie Loflin | Ruth Smith | Brigitte Walters |
| Jan Magnus | Vivian Alexander | Joanne Johnson | Lois Kuppler |
| Liz Newbery | Lani Beuerman | Margaret French | Patty Macino |
| George Schwenzler | Pr. Marv Schedler | Maureen Richey | Gabriela Walters |
| Charles Smith | Walt Brehm | Carol Comeskey | Carrie McDonough |
| Terry Miller | Judy Benson | David Medlin | Joel Peterson |
| Dwight Crim | Fran Perry | Barbara Moore | |

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS:

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Amie Knauer | Lynn Howell | Settie Jones | Jo Beth Brinkley |
| Albert Rossetti | Bishop Mayfield | August Hopper | Tom Diorio |
| Jerry Knoll | Jean Langrall | Kattie Duff | Pat Lienhart |
| Journey Heyer | Stan Brunt, Sr. | Noah Renfro | Harriet Benson |
| Lisa Holgerson | Barbara Colton | Lauren Miller | John Tullous, Jr. |
| Richard Truax | David Searle | Gretchen Donaldson | D. Perry |
| Paul Rady | Cary Murphrey | David Schwartz | Ronnie Dunlop |
| Betsy Miller | Sandra Marshburn | Rhonda Melton | Cannon Helms |
| Crosby James Asher | Doris Isaacs | Gene Gause | |
| Tracy Boandl | Eileen Carzon | Ronnie Carter | |
| Jane Dumire | Megan McKinney | Sean McShane | |

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Elsie Cates | Margaret French | Jim Harshbarger |
| Frank Fauser | Ruthann Getsinger | Jane McDougald |



3 Dusty Pilcher
 3 Gilbert Alphin
 4 Carol Comeskey
 5 Karen Ruefle
 5 Megan Kline
 5 Preston Gourville
 6 Irene Shea
 6 Caroline Shaver
 7 Yvonne Jones
 9 Jacob Harms

10 Raewyn McCombs
 11 Jan Betts
 11 Craig Hales
 11 Eric Pollard
 11 Greg Stirrat
 11 Ronan Harrington
 12 Dean Weber
 15 Elaine Willow
 15 Samuel Mowrey
 15 Caroline Todd
 16 Sheila Mallo
 16 Alexandra Schwartz
 16 Ron Fracalossi
 17 Connor Mough
 19 Nancy Magruder

19 Joe Huppmann
 20 Darlene Schucker
 20 Brent Labriola
 21 Logan Todd
 22 Karin Cook
 22 Jonathan Bishton
 23 Betty LaFave
 24 Linda Holway
 25 Tyler Crouch
 26 J. Hollamon
 26 Carley Cumbo
 26 Irene Glaeser
 27 Pr. Joel Kettner
 28 Judy Benson
 29 Alex Monroe



3 Art & Jan Magnus
 3 Ron & Suzanne Asmus
 3 Al & Irene Glaeser
 4 Bill & Tracy Gourville
 4 Pr. Sam & Laura Zumwalt
 5 Brian & Laurie Tobin
 9 Keith & Cindy Harms

9 Harry & Tanya Puckett
 16 Mike & Cindy Perretta
 17 Dave & Peggy Davis
 20 Ron & Joan Fracalossi
 21 Jim & Sheila Whitmeyer
 22 Terry & Joyce Crouch
 23 Dave & Diane Sundberg
 25 Alan & Maureen Richey
 30 Kenn & Wanda Slocum
 30 Ken & Gina Schiess
 30 Pr. Michael & Leslie Bergbower



Walking the Bible

Bruce Feiller published *Walking the Bible* in 2001. It was a journey to discover something missing from our digital world. He was searching for something real. So he set out to walk the Old Testament places we read about in the Bible. He found that the Biblical places with all their hard-to-pronounce names were, in fact real, and that by visiting them, the meaning of them and the Bible became real. Feiller's motivation was to locate the stories we read in the Bible—to see if they could be placed on the world map. He found that they could and that the stories had a profound impact on the world and on himself. His journey was a walk of courage to discover something missing in his life—and with the help of many others along the way, he found himself.

We all walk journeys, sometimes in silence and suffering. Stephen Ministers are here to travel with you through your own search for something lost in your life—a job, a spouse, a friend. Feiller didn't travel alone—he went with others...and God, too. If you, like Bruce Feiller, are on a journey and want or need some help along the way, contact a Stephen Minister to be your companion. We'll come with you. Contact Pastor Sam, Ana Marie Jackson, Terry Miller, or Jon Lindsay to get started. If you know people who need a Stephen Minister, send them to us. We are ready to travel. (By the way, you can find Feiller's book in the Church Library.)

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|--|--|---|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
|  | | | 1 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir | 2 10:00 Quilt Ministry 7:00 Midtown AA | 3 | 4 6:00 Eucharist |
| 5 15th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist | 6 Labor Day Church Office closed 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal | 7 9:00 Counting Team 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Joyful Noise 6:30 Stephen Ministry | 8 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 11:00 Finance Team 12:00 Healing Euch. 1:00 CPR/AED Training 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir | 9 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 6:30 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Midtown AA | 10 | 11 9:00 CPR/AED Training 9:00 McSwain Kitchen Cleaning 6:00 Eucharist |
| 12 16th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 Grief Support Group | 13 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal | 14 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Faith Circle 1:00 Peace Circle 6:00 Girl Scouts 354 | 15 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir <i>Newsletter deadline</i> | 16 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Midtown AA | 17 | 18 St. Matthew 6:00 Eucharist CKM Gifts Pre-sale (before and after svc) |
| 19 St. Matthew 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 Congregational Luncheon CKM Gifts Pre-sale (before and after svcs) <i>*Deadline for member vote qualification.</i> | 20 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 CKM Team 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal | 21 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 6:30 Joyful Noise 6:30 Stephen Ministry | 22 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir | 23 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Midtown AA | 24 Hospice Meal (dinner) | 25 6:00 Eucharist |
| 26 18th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 1:30 Special Cong. Meeting - Disaffiliation Vote | 27 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal | 28 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 Social Ministry 6:00 Girl Scouts 354 | 29 8:30 Men's Breakfast 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir | 30 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Midtown AA | | |