

MARCH  
2022

# 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



**Welcome to the following new members who recently joined St. Matthew's...**

Sandy Crenshaw  
Brandon and Ashley Calkins with their sons, Gabriel, Isaiah, and Abel  
Eric Beuerman

## First Communion Class will be April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

At least one parent will need to attend class with each student. Pizza and soft drinks, juice, or water will be provided along with take-home materials. The pastor suggests that First Communion be received on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022.



Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 16th starting at 11:00 a.m. Everyone will meet in McCombs Hall, and be sure to bring your own bucket.

Older youth are needed to help hide eggs starting at 10:00 a.m.

Candy donations for the eggs are needed by April 10th.  
Please place your donation in the collection basket in the Commons.

## **April OWL's Luncheon** **Thursday, April 21 - 11:30 a.m. in McCombs Hall**

The meal will be catered by Middle of the Island and will consist of honey baked ham, barbeque chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, squash casserole, apple crisp, roll, tea, coffee, and water.  
Cost is \$15 per person, and a sign-up sheet is posted on the big board in the Commons.



*Bees on a Mission* donated 28 quilts to go to Poland for Ukrainian refugees, through a local shipper who sent containers each Friday in March.

We are blessed with a talented group of ladies who continue to bless others locally and around the world with beautiful, hand crafted quilts made with love.



## **Saturday, April 30th 7am-12pm McSwain Center**



The Youth Group will be having a Spring Yard Sale!  
Drop off times are as follows:

Sunday, April 24: 12-4pm  
Monday, April 25: 11am-12pm and 3:45-7pm  
Wednesday, April 27: 10am-12pm and 3:45-8pm  
Thursday, April 28: 11am-1pm and 3:45-5:30pm  
Friday, April 29: 6pm-8pm

- Please drop off items during these times. Do not leave items outside the gym or with the office.
- Pick up for large items only are by appointment. Please contact Terry Madden at 910-524-6698 to schedule a pick up.
- No mattresses and old tube-type TV's will be accepted, and all other electronics must be in working condition.



## **Hospice Meals Program**

Thank you to all who have signed up to supply meals for Hospice!  
All dates have been filled!

## **Altar Flowers**

All slots for altar flowers have been filled through August! Look for the September 2022-August 2023 chart in August.



## Greetings from Pastor Sam

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

There are many things we cannot control in life. Among them is how fast the Disaffiliation Committee of the North Carolina Synod Council responds to our request. We know that we followed the process exactly as laid out in our ELCA constitution. Consultations with Bishop Smith took place both with the Church Council and Long Range Planning Team and with the entire congregation in the fall of 2019. Before the strange season of Covid, on January 26, 2020, our congregation voted by more than 80% to express our intent to disaffiliate from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Even though we could have called a congregational meeting 90 days after the NC Synod acknowledged our successful first vote, we chose to wait in order that no one would feel disenfranchised by meeting during the Covid scare.

We waited until September 26, 2021, twenty months, to have the second congregational meeting. At that meeting, we voted by more than 90% to disaffiliate from the ELCA. At the same meeting, which provided social distancing, we voted by a majority to affiliate with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Because the quarterly NC Synod Council meeting had already met in September 2021, we waited until the Synod Council's December meeting for a response. Bishop Smith told us in advance that our request would likely be tabled until the March 11, 2022 Synod Council meeting. A new Disaffiliation Committee was formed by the Synod Council at its December 2021 meeting, and they were not ready to make a recommendation on our request to the Synod Council on March 11, 2022. The latest word from the chair of the Disaffiliation Committee, Mr. Fred Park, is that our request *may* be on the Synod Council's agenda when they meet June 1 prior to the N.C. Synod Gathering (a non-assembly event this year without voting members).

So, we cannot control how fast the Synod Council acts on our request. St. Matthew's Congregation Council can send a letter asking that they act more speedily and favorably to our request. Individual members could likewise send *kind* letters both to Bishop Smith and to the Disaffiliation Committee. Your Council can continue to plan for the call of a rostered pastor or a non-rostered youth and education director by August 2022. But, we are on hold as to how far we can go as we wait for the Synod Council to recognize this congregation has been very clear that it wishes to disaffiliate from the ELCA in order to affiliate with a more conservative Lutheran denomination from which we might call a second pastor.

Now, as to the things over which we have control. Let us keep our eyes focused on the main thing. Palm Sunday and Holy Week begin on Saturday evening, April 9. We worship daily, walking with our Lord Jesus Christ to His victory on the cross over sin, death, and the devil for us and our salvation. Then, we gather for the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening, April 16, to renew our Baptisms and to hear the joyful proclamation that our Lord is risen indeed! Easter Sunday begins early on the first day of the week with the sunrise Eucharist led by the Joyful Noise ensemble in the courtyard at 6:30 a.m. and, then, two festival Eucharists led by our adult choir and instrumentalists at 8:30 and 11 a.m. We are able to be in worship as often as possible during Holy Week and to invite our dearest loved ones and friends to hear the Good News that turns the world upside down!

If you have unbaptized loved ones, invite them to worship before and during Holy Week. Let them hear what God's Son Jesus Christ has done for them and for all. If you have been worshipping with us for a while and are ready to join our fellowship in the Gospel, please note the New Disciples Class for those new to the Lutheran church or to Christianity is on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to noon. The New Member Orientation for Lutheran transfers and those who previously completed the New Disciples Class is on Saturday, June 11, from 9-11:30 a.m. with new members being received on June 11-12.

Do the next right thing, dear ones. Be in worship often. Pray for and invite the unchurched to attend.

Your father in Christ,



Pr. Sam Zumwalt+

Progress Report on our Affiliation  
From the Executive Team  
March 2022

The March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NC Synod Council was rescheduled for March 11 - 12. Again, there was no decision made on our request to disaffiliate from the ELCA. Further information was provided by the Council member assigned to chair the newly formed “Disaffiliation Committee”. This committee was formed at the December 2021 Synod Council meeting, but did not begin their work as a committee until March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Shared here are some excerpts from a lengthy email received from the Chair of the Committee:

*“As more of our congregations enter into this process, it became apparent that we needed a smaller group to do due diligence and evaluate each situation on its own unique merits in order for the Synod Council as a whole to make an informed decision. The Disaffiliation Committee will then make a recommendation to the Synod Council on each congregation in the process when it is appropriate to do so.”*

*“The initial part of the disaffiliation process is to ensure that voting members of a congregation have had a fair opportunity for consultation with the Office of the Bishop of the North Carolina Synod and time for discernment, discussion, evaluation and voting. With that information, the Synod Council’s part of the process then includes consideration and evaluation of what is best for the Synod’s mission, ministry and vision for those who wish to leave the ELCA and for those who wish to remain in the ELCA. The Synod Council must also assess the vision, hopes and plans for ministry within that particular community.”*

**[For those members who were present at our first vote on January 26, 2019, you may recall that the ELCA constitution requires a 90-day consultation period with the Synod before the second required vote can be taken. And further, due to the pandemic, that meeting could not be held until September 26, 2021. Therefore, this requirement was fully satisfied.]**

*“While we recognize that having a committee to evaluate each disaffiliation situation individually may appear to be a “road block” or an “obstacle,” we do feel it a very necessary and important function in the process. We acknowledge that it may also mean the Synod Council’s time frame for approval may not align with the congregation’s time frame. It is an significant and important decision, and one that we will not make lightly or in haste ... Again, this is not a new “box” on the checklist but a way for the Synod Council to make a more informed decision now that the process has reached this point.”*

*“It is also important to point out that the Synod Council has not denied your request to disaffiliate from the NC Synod and the ELCA nor was any such action tabled. The Disaffiliation Committee was not ready to make a recommendation to the Council at our meeting this weekend.”*

**We call upon you all to be steadfast in prayer and remain patient for the Lord’s will. We do not have a firm date for their next meeting, but expect it to be the first weekend in June. Thank you all for your continued support of St. Matthew’s, our Pastor and leadership as we navigate another detour in this journey!**

Yours in Christ,  
Beth Hales, President  
Todd Shaver, Vice President  
Jeff Hollamon, Secretary  
Carol Roller, Treasurer  
Sam Zumwalt, Senior Pastor

## *Gifts to Honor and Remember*

**IN MEMORY OF JAMES HARSHBARGER**, a gift to the Organ Fund by the Monroe family; a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Margaret and Marvin Robison, Jean P. Manley, Vivian Alexander.

**IN MEMORY OF FRANK FAUSER**, a gift to the Property Fund by Jack Kuske; a gift to the Organ Fund by Grace Koder; a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Jean P. Manley.

**IN MEMORY OF DR. TOM THOMPSON**, a gift to the Organ Fund by Alex Monroe.

**IN MEMORY OF RACHEL THOMPSON**, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Rick and Laura Fritz, Walt and Loretta Brehm.

**IN MEMORY OF GLADYS BANKS**, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary from Dawn Kuhn, the Swierczek family.

**IN MEMORY OF GARY ZENZ**, a gift to the Youth Gathering Fund by Lynette Farmer.

**IN MEMORY OF JOANNE JOHNSON**, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Rick and Laura Fritz; a gift to Social Ministry for Ukraine from Joe and Diane Rumsey.

**IN MEMORY OF BRITTANY DANA FELICI**, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Barbara Keyel.

**IN HONOR OF KAREN SCHMOKE**, a gift to the Christkindlmarkt by Peggy Barr, Al and Beverly Hunsberger; a gift to the Youth Gathering Fund by Peggy Barr, Al and Beverly Hunsberger.

**IN HONOR OF PEGGY BARR'S 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY**, a gift to Christian Education by Ruth Rice; a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Judy Daniels; a gift to the Contingency Fund by Joe and Diane Rumsey; a gift to the Youth Gathering Fund by Fred and Ana Maria Jackson, Fran Perry, Carolyn Hooker, Charles and Darlene Schucker, Sharon Callender, Lynette Farmer.



1	Abigail Harrington
3	Joy Shaver
5	Harrison Rutland
6	Amy Beall
6	Curt Stansbury
7	Annie Jewell
7	Alan Richey
7	Kyle Price
8	Leslie Bergbower
8	Ellen James

9	Ethan Gains
9	Brayden Lupo
10	Todd Shaver
11	Britton Jones
12	Randy Mallo
17	Donna Siegmund
18	Ronnie Martin
18	Marshall Johnson
19	Kenn Slocum
19	Dale Stansbury
20	Butch Ruefle
21	Janet Hall
23	Ken Johns
24	Dwight Crim
25	Margaret French
29	Jenny Manning



5	Charles & Kim Smith
9	Ken & Colleen Johns
14	Pr. Peter & Maggie Hoyer
15	Richard & Kay Thompson
16	Pr. Joel & Judy Kettner
25	Pr. Marv & Marcie Schedler
25	Butch & Karen Ruefle
26	Dwight & Jeannette Crim
26	Mike & Mandy Harrington



***Our Christian sympathy is extended to...***

The family of Mike Stophel.

Stan and Jane Brunt, and family, on the death of Stan's father, Stan Brunt, Sr.

The family of Joanne Johnson.

Joyce and Terry Crouch on the death of their friend and neighbor, Chris Beahan.

***MEMBERS:***

Nancy Fauser

Regina Ryder

Keith Farmer

Donna Siegmund

Kenn Slocum

Harry Comeskey

Pat Mahl

Liz Newbery

George Schwenzer

Helen Knoll

Arthur and Barbara Moore

Lani Beuerman

Pr. Marv Schedler

Judy Benson

Lon Ostby

Laura Matthess

Micki Matthess

Jane and Willard Dove

Ed Ludacer

Maureen Richey

Leslie Long

Patty Macino

Al Scheidt

Carrie McDonough

Gabriela Walters

Carol Comeskey

Daniel Sparks

Erika Braje

Terry Miller

Marcie Schedler

John Tullous

Alex Schwartz

Janet and Denis Hall

Ruth Rice

Barbara Duff

Greg Adams

Frank Felter

Ken Manning

Howard Beuerman

Lynette Farmer

Dave Medlin

Elaine Mattes

Peggy Davis

Joel Peterson

Nate Holway

Kay Thompson

Carolyn Hooker

***FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS:***

Amie Knauer

Albert Rossetti

Jerry Knoll

Journey Heyer

Lisa Holgerson

Richard Truax

Paul Rady

Crosby James Asher

Tracy Boandl

Bishop Mayfield

Jean Langrall

Barbara Colton

August Hopper

Kattie Duff

David Schwartz

Ronnie Carter

Gunder Peterson

Vinny Swidorski

John Tullous, Jr.

Tonya Reeves

Cannon Helms

Lynne Bryson

Glen Lindner

David Hunsberger

Sally Przybranowski

Jo Beth Brinkley

Jackie Horne

Donna Lawhorn

Eileen Carzon

Bill and Dot Pearson

Hudson Dingfelder

Jeff James

Julia Jewell

Laurena Sundberg

Josiah Heyer

Holly, Brett, and Lala Limmer

Amy Kelm

Russ Kuhn

Peter and Marlene Thomas

Daniel Pearson

John Goss

Alex and family

Megan McKinney

John Sorge

Jim Campbell

Rufus Horne

***REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:***

Elsie Cates

Margaret French

Ruthann Getsinger

Laura Gray

Jane McDougald



“Good grief!” Charlie Brown is noted as saying. But the cause of grief is usually not good! Nevertheless, we have to go through the grieving process sometimes. Stephen Ministers can help. If you or someone you know is grieving for whatever reason, you may want to contact a Stephen Minister who will be there to listen and be a friend in a time of need. Stephen Ministers are trained to help you go through the tough times when it is just good to have someone to listen to you grieve—and, of course, to pray for you every day. Call on the Stephen Ministry team to listen without judgment, care without ceasing, and pray every day for your well-being.

If you think you would like to be a part of this Stephen Ministry team and help others in their time of need, please come. You will be trained and encouraged every step of the way so that you, too, can extend your hands and heart to others who need comfort. In this way, you will be acting as God’s arms, extending His comfort to his servants.

Contacts: Pastor Sam, Ana Marie Jackson, Terry Miller, Jon Lindsay (or any other Stephen Minister!)



*Dear Pr. Zumwalt and family, and St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you so very much for inviting me to come and teach at your church. I had a very good time and was floored by your generosity - the food, the accommodations, your hospitality. We hope and pray that your church affiliation situation is resolved soon. Please stay in touch and I am so grateful to have met all of you.*

*God’s Blessings,  
Kelly Uffenbeck (Schumacher)*



*To the Congregation,*

*Thank you all for turning out for my celebration. Karen Schmoke did an excellent job with the food and cake. She has a blessed ability. Thank you for all the love and good wishes from my church family.*

*Love to you all,  
Peggy Barr*



### **Church Council Meeting - March 10, 2022**

At the regular Church Council meeting, the following was approved:

- The following individuals were approved as new members: Brandon & Ashley Calkins (sons Gabriel, Isaiah & Abel), Sandra Crenshaw and Eric Beuerman.
- Another revision was made to the Financial Secretary Continuing Resolution #B6.06A22, changing item 2 to read “Issue annual giving statements to all contributors. Giving statements may be issued quarterly or at any time upon request.”

<b><u>Operating Fund: Feb. 2022</u></b>		
	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>	37,728.46	71,906.87
<b>Expenses:</b>	<u>44,472.15</u>	<u>82,175.64</u>
<b>Income/ (Loss)</b>	(6,743.69)	(10,268.77)

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 11:00 Fellowship Team 6:00 Eucharist
<b>3 5th Sunday in Lent</b> 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 First Communion Class	<b>4</b> 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	<b>5</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 6:30 Stephen Ministry	<b>6</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 11:00 Finance Team 12:00 Lenten Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS/HS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Lenten Evening Prayer 7:30 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>7</b> 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 6:30 Council 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Midtown AA	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 1:00 Joanne Johnson Memorial Svc. 6:00 Eucharist
<b>10 Palm/Passion Sunday</b> 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 Grief Support Group	<b>11 Holy Week I</b> 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Holy Week Euch. 1:00 Gary Zenz Memorial Svc. 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA	<b>12 Holy Week II</b> 10:00 Prayer Group 12:00 Holy Week Euch.	<b>13 Holy Week III</b> 12:00 Holy Week Euch.	<b>14 Maundy Thurs.</b> 12:00 Maundy Thurs Eucharist 7:00 Maundy Thurs Eucharist	<b>15 Good Friday</b> <b>Office closed</b> 12:00 Good Friday Worship 7:00 Good Friday Tenebrae	<b>16 Easter Vigil</b> 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt 6:00 Easter Vigil Eucharist
<b>17 Easter</b> 6:30 Sunrise Euch. 8:30 Eucharist 11:00 Eucharist	<b>18</b> 9:00 Counting Team 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	<b>19</b> 10:00 Prayer Group 5:30 Joyful Noise 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 6:30 Stephen Ministry	<b>20</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS/HS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>21</b> 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 11:30 OWL's Luncheon 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Midtown AA	<b>22</b> Hospice Meal 9:00 Salvation Army Spring Fling - set up	<b>23</b> 9:00 Salvation Army Spring Fling 6:00 Eucharist
<b>24 2nd Sunday of Easter</b> 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 12:00 Yard Sale Drop off	<b>25</b> 9:00 Counting Team 11:00 Yard Sale Drop off 12:00 Conversations 3:45 Yard Sale Drop off 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	<b>26</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 Social Ministry 6:00 Girl Scouts 354	<b>27</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 10:00 Yard Sale Drop off 12:00 Healing Euch. 3:45 Yard Sale Drop off 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS/HS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>28</b> 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 11:00 Yard Sale Drop off 3:45 Yard Sale Drop off 7:00 Midtown AA	<b>29</b> 6:00 Yard Sale Drop off 8:00 Youth Lock-in	<b>30</b> 7:00 Youth Spring Yard Sale 6:00 Eucharist

## ***Upcoming Worship and Events***

***April 30-May 1*** -- Third Sunday of Easter, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am, and 11:00 am

***May 2*** -- Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

***May 4*** -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

***May 5*** -- National Day of Prayer service, 12:00 pm

***May 7-8*** -- Fourth Sunday of Easter, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am (Contemporary), and 11:00 am

***May 9*** -- Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

***May 11*** -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

***May 14-15*** -- Fifth Sunday of Easter, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am, and 11:00 am

***May 16*** -- Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

***May 18*** -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

***May 21-22*** -- Sixth Sunday of Easter, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am (Contemporary), and 11:00 am

***May 23*** -- Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

***May 25*** -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

***May 28-29*** -- Seventh Sunday of Easter, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am, and 11:00 am