

JULY 2022

The Encounter

Monthly Newsletter of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church



"Proclaiming Christ Crucified"

Established 1892

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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.



Congratulations to our students who were Confirmed on June 5th ...

Allison Brynn Oxford, daughter of Maggie and Shane Oxford
Elsie Anne Shaver, daughter of Todd and Melissa Shaver
Clare Francesca Zumwalt, daughter of Pr. Sam and Laura Zumwalt



Welcome to the following new members who joined on June 11th and June 12th ...

David and Connie Forler
Linda Joyce

The next New Disciples Class is Saturday, August 20th at 9am. This class is for anyone new to Lutheranism or Christianity. New Member Orientation is September 17th at 9am. This class is for transferring Lutherans or those who attended the New Disciples class. New members will be received September 17th and 18th. If you're interested in attending, contact Donna Capozio at 791-4582 or dcapozio@stmatthewsch.org.



If you are having a Qualified Charitable Distribution sent directly to the church, please advise Joan Wazybok in the Finance Office or fill out a form located next to the Finance Office door. Occasionally the checks do not indicate the donor so we need your name, amount (or approximate amount if you do not know), the name of the financial institution sending the money AND into which account you wish to have the funds placed. This will greatly help the Finance Team make sure your wishes are followed. Thank you for your attention to this matter!



**"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2**

What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry equips and empowers lay caregivers to provide high quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

Every day you may meet people who are experiencing a difficult time. They might be going through a bitter divorce, lost a loved one, lost a job, lost health, or may be facing any other circumstances that cause grief.

If you feel called to provide support to someone who is hurting, you may consider joining the Stephen Ministry team. Come to an Information meeting, find more about the ministry, ask questions, and decide whether this is the right time for you.

**Information Meeting: Sunday, July 17th
9:45am in the Library**

In the meantime, if you have any questions, contact one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Ana María Jackson (910)599-5622, Jon Lindsay (770)356-5093, Terry Miller (910)619-3742, or Pastor Sam (910)791-4582.

Greetings from Pastor Sam

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13, ESV).

On the first weekend of July, our nation celebrates Independence Day, the 246th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. The greatest number of our parishioners were born into what has been called the American experiment. As with cradle Christians, cradle U.S. citizens do not often have a proper appreciation for this great land to which two of my grandparents immigrated in the first decades of the 20th century. Although Grossmutti spoke with a German accent until her death and Papa Joe with an Italian accent, both remembered from where they came and were grateful for this land in which they became naturalized citizens. My grandmother from Germany was so proud of her daughter, my mother, who served as an Army nurse during World War II. My step-grandfather from Sicily fought for this country during WWI to gain his citizenship. These understood the cost of freedom was paid for with American military blood. They were no longer Germans or Sicilians. They were proud Americans.

Our freedom in Christ was also purchased at great cost with the Blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. Each time we cross ourselves and each time we wear or carry a cross, we are reminded that His Blood was shed to set us free from sin, death, and the old evil foe. When we are freed in the washing of Holy Baptism, we are freed for service. Like my immigrant grandparents, we remember we once belonged to another kingdom but now we are Christ’s own dear possession. Our freedom is costly freedom, and we give thanks by treating that freedom as freedom for others and not as freedom from responsibility.

While Covid is not completely in the rearview mirror, it is certainly less a threat to all but the most fragile or physically challenged among us. Continuing to be care-full is quite different than being fear-full. During these summer months when our sermons will be themed around the Ten Commandments and Martin Luther’s explanation of them in the Large Catechism, we will have occasion to consider what our heavenly Father does and does not want from those who have been set free by the Blood of His Beloved Son Jesus in Holy Baptism. We will also doubtless have occasion to repent of some of the laziness and excuse-making into which we allowed ourselves to wander during the long season of Covid. We will also leave behind guilt and shame, too, because they are of no use to our heavenly Father.

Resuming in-person worship this summer and, then, study for all ages in early September; once again signing up to serve in the various worship leadership roles; putting into service in this parish the various gifts and talents the Lord God has given you including teaching children and youth; not getting sucked into the childish dramas of the spiritually immature; and not *dwelling* on the behavior of people and other such things over which we have no control – all of these are the proper exercise of our freedom in Christ. The opposite of such good and godly behavior is pretending we have been freed to be selfish.

The Blood of Christ has purchased you and me on Calvary’s tree. He is counting on us to follow Him in joyful, humble service in the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of His Father and ours! Think on these things, dearest ones, and not a little. Put away childish excuses and walk as children of the Light!

Your father in Christ,



Pastor Sam Zumwalt+
szumwalt@bellsouth.net

Letter to the Congregation – June 13, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I'd like to start by sharing my deepest gratitude for your steadfast support of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, your Congregation Council *and most especially Pastor Zumwalt* as we have navigated through some stormy conditions the last two years. I was pleasantly surprised to see so many of you (50+) in attendance at the Special Council Meeting held June 6th with NC Synod representatives. And I have heard many others listened to the meeting on our YouTube channel. We are encouraged to hear your comments in response to the reasons the Synod Council rejected our request to disaffiliate from the ELCA.

At the June 9th Congregation Council, I reported that I received 80 written requests from verified eligible voting members to call a Special Congregational Meeting to repeat the process to disaffiliate. At that meeting, we discussed the timing of when such a meeting could take place. Given the required Synod and Congregation notifications and Synod consultation periods before and after the first meeting, a timeline is being developed. I have confirmed our Parliamentarian is available on August 21st to hold the first meeting. Officially "calling" this meeting will be on the July 14th Council meeting agenda and you will individually be notified by email or US Mail.

Until then there are **3 things** we can all be doing. **1) PRAY** that God will lead us through another complex process and that HIS WILL for St. Matthew's becomes clear. **2) PRAY** for the NC Synod Council that they might have a change of heart. **3) PRAY** that no matter the outcome of repeating the process, we remain ONE IN CHRIST and stay true to the teachings of the HOLY SCRIPTURES.

If anyone wishes to join the 80 members who have requested the meeting described above, you can find a form on the stage in McCombs Fellowship Hall where the mailboxes are located. Place the completed form in the mailbox marked "PRESIDENT". These will be accepted until July 14.

In gratitude for your faithfulness,



Beth Hales
Congregation President



Church Council Meeting - June 9, 2022

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

- Nigel Bearman, CPA, reported the results of a clean financial audit for 2021 with a recommendation to the Endowment Team regarding a procedural change to disbursements to the capital reserve fund.
- Approved Continuing Resolution for the Stewardship Alternative Fund to clarify its establishment by Council in 2009.
- Nominated the following members to the Search Team for the Director of Youth & Family Ministries: Lani Beuerman, Scott Mough, Melissa Shaver. Pastor Sam and Beth Hales will also serve on the team.
- Approved the following new members: Linda Joyce, David & Connie Forler, Johanna Farmer Hill, and newly confirmed members Allison Oxford, Elsie Shaver and Clare Zumwalt.
- Approved the addition of \$300 to the Contingency Fund from undesignated offerings in June.
- Discussion held regarding the written request of 80 members to restart the process of disaffiliation from the ELCA. The timeline was discussed and after confirming the availability of the Parliamentarian, Council will set the date for the first meeting at the July Council meeting.

<u>Operating Fund: May 2022</u>		
	Month	YTD
Revenues:	54,213.74	213,045.49
Expenses:	<u>40,878.96</u>	<u>205,347.34</u>
Income/ (Loss)	13,334.78	7,698.15



Our Christian sympathy is extended to...

Craig and Beth Hales on the death of their friend, Daniel Pearson.

Ray Wilson, and family, on the death of his wife, Marilyn Wilson.

MEMBERS:

Nancy Fauser
Regina Ryder
Keith Farmer
Donna Siegmund
Kenn Slocum
Pat Mahl
Liz Newbery
George Schwenger
Helen Knoll
Lani Beuerman
Pr. Marv Schedler
Judy Benson
Lon Ostby
Laura Matthess
Micki Matthess
Jane and Willard Dove
Ed Ludacer
Maureen Richey
Leslie Long

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
Howard Beuerman
Lynette Farmer
Dave Medlin
Peggy Davis
Jane McDougald
Margaret French

Carolyn Hooker
Kay Thompson
Tina Medlin
Marti Felter
Elaine Mattes
Jan Magnus
Patty Macino
Lois Kuppler
Nate Holway
Joel Peterson
Arthur and Barbara Moore
Frances Donaldson
Ken Manning
Bill Baldwin
Harry Comeskey
Robbie Icard
Beverly Hunsberger

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS:

Amie Knauer
Albert Rossetti
Jerry Knoll
Journey Heyer
Richard Truax
Tracy Boandl
Barbara Colton
August Hopper
Kattie Duff
David Schwartz
Ronnie Carter
Gunder Peterson
Viny 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
Laurena Sundberg
Josiah Heyer
Holly, Brett, and Lala Limmer
Amy Kelm
Russ Kuhn
Peter and Marlene Thomas
John Goss

Alex and family
Rufus Horne
Jim Campbell
Alice Copeland
Hardin Hosford Croom
Megan McKinney
Sally Jo Capozio
Envy Willow Gernant
Pr. Rob Moore
Eleanor Eisenman
Debbie Clary
Edward Morrison
Ron Bloom
Robert Shaffer
Wilhelmina Stanland

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Elsie Cates
Margaret French

Ruthann Getsinger
Laura Gray

Jane McDougald

Gifts to Honor and Remember

IN HONOR OF BILL GLISSON AND KEVIN ULISNIK, a gift to the Worship and Music Fund by Arthur and Barbara Moore.

IN HONOR OF NEW CONFIRMANDS ALLISON OXFORD, ELSIE SHAVER, AND CLARE ZUMWALT, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Paul and Bev Miller.

IN HONOR OF CLARE ZUMWALT'S CONFIRMATION, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Carol and Harry Comesky.



- 1 Kelsie Johns
- 1 Denise Benoit
- 2 Al Birnstein
- 2 Lea Shipman
- 2 David Wray
- 3 Needham Hall
- 6 Carrie McDonough
- 6 Pr. Peter Hoyer
- 8 Larry Troutman
- 9 Marie Loflin
- 10 Kay Rose
- 10 Lois Kuppler
- 10 Thomas Weybrecht

- 11 Judy Daniels
- 16 Vivian Alexander
- 17 Randy Magruder
- 17 Elsie Shaver
- 18 Lexi Pollard
- 18 Isaiah Calkins
- 18 Todd Darnell
- 19 Rhonda Mough
- 19 Mike Thompson
- 19 Andy Rappold
- 20 Don Butzin
- 21 Kristen Lupo
- 22 Devon Donaldson
- 23 Nancy Fauser
- 24 Dave Davis
- 24 Garrison Beall
- 25 Harry Comeskey
- 25 Clare Zumwalt
- 26 Sherri Hiler



- 1 Howard and Lani Beurman
- 2 Greg and Donna Adams
- 3 Paul and Sue Mowrey
- 11 John and Amy Beall
- 12 David and Keri Rutland
- 13 Jennifer and Scott Sumner
- 16 Larry and Pat Mahl
- 16 Todd and Melissa Shaver
- 18 Alan and Beverly Hunsberger
- 21 Doug and Bruni Kline
- 27 Gary and Sonja Stroehl
- 27 David and Connie Forler
- 29 Lon and Nell Ostby



An Indoor Outdoor German Christmas Market

Saturday, November 19, 2022 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Featuring The Harbour Towne Fest Band, Bratwurst, German Beer, Baked Goods, Vendors, Activities for the Kids, and MUCH MORE!

Our Leaders

Perry Guy

Infrastructure
and Grounds
Set Up and Clean Up

Joan Fracalossi

Finance

Robert Kuppler

Food and Beverage

Marti Felter

Member Booths

Arts and Crafts

German Ornaments

German Gifts

Baked Goods

St. Nick's Basement

Silent Auction

Joyce Crouch

Communications
and Advertising

June Doll

Entertainment
and Other Activities

Harbour Towne Fest Band

Der Weihnachtsmann

Organ Demonstrations

Nave Tours

Church Info (Evangelism)

Kids' Crafts

Beth Hales continues to work on our vendor selection. Applications were sent out to those whose products have been approved. She has already approached approximately 80 potential vendors. If you know of a vendor who you would like to see represented, pick up a business card and drop it in the President's mail slot on the stage in McCombs Fellowship Hall. Beth will follow up.

Guess who's already coming?

Returning:

- Frog on a Pond
- Lou's Organic Lab, LLC
- Elderberry Syrup by Ruth LLC
- Rho's Bows & Wreaths
- Bea's Retreat
- Saras Pepparkakor
- IsBella Crochet
- Cape Fear Woodcarvers

New to the festival:

- Sudsation
- For our Furry Friends Thrift Store
- Folklore Art

The **Kid's Craft** theme this year will be "The Legend of the Nutcracker" Keri is trying to get a face painter.

What fun is that !!!

Our Super Shoppers **Emily** and **June** are already on the job. German Ornaments and Gifts have been ordered. Wait 'til you see this year's new exciting selections! Start saving your pennies!

Attention all CRAFTERS: Diane Sundberg is keeping a list of crafters and their projects. Please let her know if you plan to donate something to CKM and what you are working on. We want to ensure that we have sufficient **space to display** your handiwork. Being able to market these items adequately is critical to the success of our festival. Contact Diane at carzcarzcarz@yahoo.com

Sponsorships: We really need your support to get this festival going. Individual sponsorship forms have been available for a few months now and have been picked up rather quickly. Please return them with your checks as soon as possible since our expenses are starting to come in. **For your convenience, you may also give online.** Corporate forms are also available for local businesses. We depend on their support as well. If you can think of a business which might benefit from the exposure they receive at our event, please pick up a form for them as well. We can always print more.



Mini-fundraisers: We are shooting for an event on July 30th, a Saturday evening after the service, in conjunction with the Youth. This will be a Mid-Summer Social. Details to follow.

Some Scenes from Christkindlmarkt 2021



German Ornaments



Vendor Booth: Elderberry Syrup by Ruth



Member Arts and Crafts




Vendor Booth: Saras Pepparkakor



Nave Tours



Vendor Booth: IsBella Crochet

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 1:00 Marilyn Wilson Memorial Svc.	2 11:00 Fellowship Team 4:00 Pastoral Support Team 6:00 Eucharist
3 4th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist 11:00 Eucharist	4 July 4th Church Office closed 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	5 9:00 Counting Team 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 5:30 Joyful Noise	6 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Svc 6:00 MS/HS Youth	7 10:00 Quilt Ministry 7:00 Midtown AA	8	9 6:00 Eucharist
10 5th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist (C) 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 Grief Support Group	11 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	12 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group	13 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 11:00 Finance Team 12:00 Healing Svc.	14 10:00 Quilt Ministry 6:30 Council 7:00 Midtown AA	15	16 6:00 Eucharist
17 6th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Stephen Ministry Information Meeting 11:00 Eucharist	18 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	19 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 5:30 Joyful Noise 6:30 Stephen Ministry	20 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Svc	21 10:00 Quilt Ministry 7:00 Midtown AA	22 Hospice Meal	23 6:00 Eucharist
24 7th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist (C) 11:00 Eucharist	25 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	26 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group	27 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Svc	28 10:00 Quilt Ministry 7:00 Midtown AA	29	30 6:00 Eucharist
31 8th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist 11:00 Eucharist						

Upcoming Worship and Events

August 1 -- Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

August 3 -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

August 6-7 -- Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am, and 11:00 am

August 8 -- Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

August 10 -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

August 13-14 -- Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am (Contemporary), and 11:00 am

August 15 -- Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

August 17 -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

August 20 -- New Disciples Class, 9:00 am

August 20-21 -- Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am, and 11:00 am

August 22 -- Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

August 24 -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

August 27-28 -- Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost/Rally Day, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am (Contemporary),
and 11:00 am; Rally Day Activities, 9:45 am; Rally Day Lunch and Fellowship, 12:30 pm

August 29 -- Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

August 31 -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm; Confirmation Orientation, 7:00 pm