

JANUARY  
2023

# 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



The Pastors and Church Staff would like to thank the congregation for your generous love gifts to each of us. We also thank you for your kind wishes and your prayers for us as we seek to serve on your behalf and in His name.



Welcome to Jennifer Linnemann who transferred in and was received into membership on December 4th.

**New Disciples Class** for those new to the Lutheran church or to Christianity is on Saturday, January 21st from 9 a.m. to noon. This is the first step towards membership at St. Matthew's. **New Member Orientation** for Lutheran transfers and those who previously attended the New Disciples Class is Saturday, February 18th from 9-11:30 a.m. We receive new members on February 18 and 19. If you are interested in attending either class, please contact Donna Capozio at 791-4582 or [dcapezio@stmatthewsch.org](mailto:dcapezio@stmatthewsch.org).



### Owl's Luncheon - January 26

Our meal will be catered by Middle of the Island, and cost is \$15 per person. On the menu will be beef stew, pork tenderloin, baked macaroni, corn, broccoli salad, cornbread, brownies, tea, coffee, and water.

**St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church Council has called a special congregational meeting for 1 p.m. on Sunday, January 22, 2023,** to vote on whether to disaffiliate from the ELCA and, if that vote passes by 2/3 vote of all voting members present, then St. Matthew's will vote on a motion to affiliate with the AALC. The vote to disaffiliate from the ELCA will be a yes (aye) or no (nay) vote and requires a 2/3 vote of voting members present to pass. The vote to affiliate with the AALC would be a yes or note vote and requires a simple majority to pass. There are no other options that will be considered.



Craig S. Williams, Organist and Choirmaster of the Cadet Chapel, United States Military Academy, West Point, will be in concert at St. Matthew's on the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ, February 19th at 4 p.m. Tickets will be free to members but must be reserved between January 16-31. Tickets go on sale to the general public on February 1 at \$10 each. Major underwriting for this event is being provided by the St. Matthew's Endowment Fund. Click here for more information on the Cadet Chapel and Mr. Williams: <https://www.westpoint.edu/about/chaplain/chapels/cadet-chapel>

## In A Word...

We Stephen Ministers are not coming to tell you everything is okay. We aren't coming to make all things right. We aren't miracle workers, but we can help. We do bring Jesus. We can provide a hug, a shoulder to cry on, and friendship. We can listen to you talk about whatever it is you want to talk about, passing no judgments, keeping all your secrets safe, wrestling with you and your situation, and, sometimes, laughing with you. We can pray with you, bring God's love to you, share with you all that you want to share and relate. We'll keep you company, and we will listen, listen, listen. You can count on us; we will be there for you. Call us if you need us. Contact Pr. Sam, Ana Marie Jackson, Terry Miller, Jon Lindsay, or any of the Stephen Ministers. We will come.



## *Greetings from Pastor Sam*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“If you could see how many daggers, spears, and arrows are at every moment aimed at you, you would be glad to come to the sacrament as often as possible. The only reason we go about so securely and heedlessly is that we neither acknowledge nor believe that we are in the flesh, in the wicked world, or under the kingdom of the devil” (*Large Catechism, Tappert edition*, 456:82).

Perhaps, you made a New Year’s resolution to worship more frequently at St. Matthew’s in 2023. Well, if it’s all about you and what you resolve to do, you’re likely to fail, and quickly, as you’ve probably learned from previous years in which you set goals like that. The devil, whom our Lord Jesus Christ calls the father of lies, will be glad to help... especially if you don’t believe there’s something quite so ridiculous as a devil. The old enemy has stolen more than a few away by whatever means: love of child and family, love of an unbelieving spouse, love of pleasure and entertainment, love of power, love of work, love of money, love of intellect, and, of course, his own personal favorite, Pride. Like Narcissus of old, love of self is deadly.

When people around you seem to lead charmed lives, do not be fooled. Entirely beautiful lives can be built on a foundation of lies. Think, for instance, of the pro-choice folks who still insist that the murder of infants in the womb is about a woman’s health, or that it isn’t a baby until it’s born, or it’s a harmless decision made between a woman and her doctor. Executives of the largest abortion provider, their board members, their lobbyists, and the politicians and the popular culture puppets in their pockets wear beautiful formal wear to galas, are often chauffeured in limousines, and are media darlings. It’s all one nasty lie from the pit of hell, whose chief thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

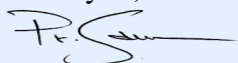
There is forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation even for those whose hearts, minds, and lives have been broken by their guilt or shame over having murdered a child or children in the womb. Repentance and amendment of one’s sinful life are met with God’s grace and mercy in Jesus Christ. To those in Church and government who are unrepentant about having supported, voted for, lied about, and looked the other way at the mass murder of children in the womb, there is a terrible day of divine judgment and eternal death awaiting. That could even include ecclesiastical prelates at the highest level who trade favors and access to power for their silence in the face of monstrous evil. Recently, Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Frank Pavone, the leader of Priests for Life, was defrocked by Rome. Lord, have mercy!

On January 22, 2023, our congregation will vote again for a second time whether to disaffiliate from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If that resolution passes by a 2/3 vote, we will decide by a simple majority vote whether to affiliate with the American Association of Lutheran Churches (TAALC), a denomination formed by former ALC churches that never joined the ELCA in 1988. We are regrettably continuing this process because both pastor and congregation are compliant with the ELCA Confession of Faith in our constitution; however, by its words and deeds in the other two expressions of the denomination beyond this congregation, the ELCA is not. Whether the North Carolina Synod Council will respect St. Matthew’s decision this second round remains to be seen. Or, whether St. Matthew’s must continue this course another eight times, as Moses did with Pharaoh, also remains to be seen.

We hasten to the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar each week, because the Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, is present there in the Host and in the Cup. There, He bestows on the penitent His forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. There, He is also present in judgment for the unrepentant and those who love lies more than Him. Martin Luther is quite clear in the Large Catechism what is at stake for the unrepentant. It matters not only how often but indeed how we approach the Lord Jesus at His Table.

Hasten with empty hands and broken hearts to receive the Lord Jesus Christ where He has promised to be in the Host and the Cup. Receiving Jesus, you will find you can do all things through Christ.

I love you,



Pastor Sam Zumwalt+

910-538-6705 (no longer 910-512-0664)



## Church Council Meeting - December 8, 2022

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

- Approved increasing the Contingency fund (2-810550) up to an additional \$260 over the remainder of the year taken from loose cash received.
- Approved donating up to \$500 from excess revenues received during December to the Good Shepherd Center in Wilmington.
- Approved Pastor's Annual Housing Allowance request of \$33,000 designated for 2023.
- Appointed Elsie Shaver to replace Joy Shaver as the 2023 Youth Representative due to a class scheduling problem in the spring semester.
- Approved excess profits from the Christkindlmarkt fundraiser of \$1,200 to be allocated toward a loan principal payment.
- McSwain Kitchen Range Hood inspection needs to be completed before the insurance renewal in February. Fred Doll will coordinate the task.
- Review & Discuss security proposals from Kellers and ADT. Kellers does not provide video monitoring. Comprehensive quote will be requested from ADT.

<b>Operating Fund: November 2022</b>		
	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>	36,406.63	460,422.73
<b>Expenses:</b>	<u>38,765.46</u>	<u>457,801.40</u>
<b>Income/ (Loss)</b>	(2,358.83)	2,621.33

### **Hospice Meals**



**The 2023 Hospice Meal sign-up is posted in the Narthex, and several dates are still open.** We supply meals on the first and fourth Fridays of every month. Since this is the only meal provided during the day, it is a great time to dust off those "feeding the 3rd Marine Corps" recipes, as my Dad used to call them. Please provide a complete meal targeting about 12-15 people, minus drinks, if possible. (They love dessert!)

### **Suggestions and Ideas**

Pot of soup and salad or sandwiches

Pan of burritos and salad

Lasagna (frozen Stouffer's is totally acceptable)

Casserole

No cook options/Can't cook options: Sandwich platter, party platter, restaurant grab and go, grocery store grab and go, Stouffer's or other frozen dinners (party size probably), rotisserie chicken

Dessert: cake, cookies, brownies, etc. And yes, purchased is just fine.

### **Logistics**

- You can take in pots/pans and then collect them at a later date.
- I actually buy disposable foil pans with covers and bake whatever in that. Then I don't have to recollect it.
- They provide serving utensils.
- I wrap towels around my dishes to keep them hot during transport.
- Salad dressings: In my experience, they have tons of little bottles in the fridge. I skip it.
- Spare paper plates, napkins, etc are generally welcomed by Hospice. That is your choice. You might want to call first to see if they are needed.

Please bring your food items to Lower Cape Fear LifeCare, 1414 Physicians Drive in Wilmington for **5-5:30 pm on your designated Friday**. You will sign in at the front desk. They should have a cart to help haul items to the kitchen. You can simply set it up (utensils were in the drawers on the island) and walk away. If you have questions, please contact Sue Mowrey at 910-465-2025 via text or voicemail. (I am a teacher so I frequently can't pick up right away.) Thank you for your service!

## *Gifts to Honor and Remember*

**In Memory of Elaine Mattes**, a gift to the Building Fund by Lynnette Farmer

**In Memory of Harry Comeskey**, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Bob and Jean Wooley, Helen Stansbury; a gift to the Building Fund by Rickey and Laura Fritz; a gift to SAF by Lynette Farmer

**In Memory of Ron Fracalossi**, a gift to the Building Fund by Gale and Vince McCluskey, Joy Bonnett, Ken and Shelvie O'Rourke; a gift to SAF and Pastor's Discretionary by Joan Fracalossi

**In Memory of Jodei Taylor**, a gift to the Organ Fund by Grace, Kathy, and Mike Koder

**In Honor of Fred Jackson**, a gift to the Special Projects Fund for Ukraine families by Ana Maria Jackson



1	Isis Baldwin
1	Calvin Worrell
2	Steve Manor
2	Charles Schucker
3	Bev Miller
5	Bob Haack
6	Diane Rumsey
6	Ed Ludacer
6	Bryan Vanderwal
7	Barbara Teigland-Duff
7	Hannah Figgs
9	Bonnie Berg
9	Mike Harrington
10	Alan Hunsberger
11	Bill Baldwin

12	Donna Adams
13	Dorian Farmer
14	Pastor Sam Zumwalt
15	Travis Johns
16	Teresa Hall
16	Lucy Hieronymus
16	Mike Murrill
17	Kandy Jones
19	Ana Maria Jackson
19	Ken Manning
20	Rick Fritz
22	Fred Jackson
23	Sheila Whitmeyer
25	Jack Kuske
26	Phyllis Weybrecht
27	Aleah Eason
27	Brigitte Walters
29	Sally Burns
30	Zachary Bishton
30	Riley Crouch
31	Loretta Brehm



1	Craig & Beth Hales
4	Ken & Irene Shea
8	Charles & Darlene Schucker
9	Joe and Mary Huppmann
20	Ken & Jenny Manning
28	Keith & Lynette Farmer

### *Upcoming Worship and Events*

**February 1** - Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

**February 4-5** - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am, and 11:00 am

**February 6** - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

**February 8** - Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

**February 11-12** - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am (Contemporary), and 11:00 am

**February 13** - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

**February 15** - Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

**February 18-19** - Transfiguration of Our Lord, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am, and 11:00 am

**February 20** - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

**February 22** - Ash Wednesday, Eucharists, 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

**February 25-26** - First Sunday in Lent, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am (Contemporary), and 11:00 am

**February 27** - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm





*Our Christian sympathy is extended to...*

Joan Fracalossi on the death of her husband, Ron Fracalossi.

Rick and Laura Fritz on the death of Rick's sister, Jodei Taylor.

**MEMBERS:**

Regina Ryder  
Keith Farmer  
Donna Siegmund  
Kenn Slocum  
Pat Mahl  
Liz Newbery  
George Schwenzer  
Lani Beuerman  
Pr. Marv Schedler  
Lon Ostby  
Laura Matthess  
Micki Matthess  
Jane and Willard Dove  
Ed Ludacer  
Leslie Long  
Carrie McDonough  
Gabriela Walters

Terry Miller  
John Tullous  
Denis Hall  
Lynette Farmer  
Peggy Davis  
Kay Thompson  
Tina Medlin  
Carolyn Hooker  
Lois Kuppler  
Nate Holway  
Joel Peterson  
Arthur and Barbara Moore  
Ken Manning  
Bill Baldwin  
Robbie Icard  
Alex Schwartz  
Nancy Miller

Butch Ruefle  
Peggy Barr  
Jan Magnus  
Sheila Leach  
Dusty Pilcher  
Cindy Harms  
Becky Howard  
Christine Dingfelder  
Carol Comeskey  
Maggie Hoyer  
Janet Hall  
Marie Loflin  
Art Magnus  
Gina Martuscelli  
David Medlin  
Helen Knoll  
Barbara Duff

**FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS:**

Amie Knauer  
Barbara Colton  
Kattie Duff  
David Schwartz  
John Tullous, Jr.  
David Hunsberger  
Sally Przybranowski  
Jo Beth Brinkley  
Hudson Dingfelder  
Rufus Horne  
Jim Campbell  
Gene and Marian Poythress  
Laurena Sundberg  
Peter Thomas  
Alice Copeland  
Megan McKinney

Ron Bloom  
Wilhelmina Stanland  
Elena Scalora  
Mary Miller  
David Searle  
Heidi Baldwin  
Ashley Lawson  
Kathryn Webster  
Tom Seip  
Melvin Proctor  
David Case  
Jim Villa  
Corrie Formica  
Lloyd Moore  
Beth Jarrott  
Sharon Hatcher

Barbara Brennaman  
Patricia Kucker  
Deanna Hart  
Annie and Elizabeth Ferry  
Julia Bennett  
Jennifer Stirrat  
Jean Langrall  
Cynthia Brown  
George Taft  
Wilma Reed  
Sue Brehm  
Pr. Harry Wolpert  
Jack Bell

**REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:**

Elsie Cates  
Nancy Fauser

Margaret French  
Ruthann Getsinger

Laura Gray  
Jane McDougald

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1 The Name of Jesus</b> 10:00 Eucharist	<b>2</b> 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	<b>3</b> 9:00 Counting Team 10:00 Prayer Group 3:30 WCA Basketball 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 5:30 Joyful Noise 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 6:30 Stephen Ministry	<b>4</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>5</b> 10:00 Quilt Ministry 4:00 CFA Basketball 7:00 Midtown AA	<b>6 Epiphany</b> 12:00 Epiphany Euch. 3:30 WCA Basketball Hospice Meal - Erika Braje	<b>7</b> 11:00 Fellowship Team 6:00 Eucharist
<b>8 Baptism of Our Lord</b> 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	<b>9</b> 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 4:00 CFA Basketball 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	<b>10</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Faith Circle 1:00 Peace Circle 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 6:00 Girl Scouts 354	<b>11</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 11:00 Finance Team 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>12</b> 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 4:00 CFA Basketball 6:00 Taking Down of Nave Decorations 7:00 Midtown AA	<b>13</b> 3:30 WCA Basketball	<b>14</b> 8:30 Council Retreat 6:00 Eucharist; Council Installation
<b>15 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b> Council Installation 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 Grief Support Group  <i>Organ Concert tickets available to church members through January 31st</i>	<b>16 MLK, Jr. Day</b> <b>Church Office closed</b> 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	<b>17</b> 9:00 Counting Team 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 3:30 WCA Basketball 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 5:30 Joyful Noise 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 6:30 Stephen Ministry	<b>18</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>19</b> 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 4:00 CFA Basketball 7:00 Midtown AA	<b>20</b> 3:30 WCA Basketball	<b>21</b> 9:00 New Disciples Class 6:00 Eucharist
<b>22 3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 1:00 Special Cong. Meeting	<b>23</b> 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 4:00 CFA Basketball 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	<b>24</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 Social Ministry 3:30 WCA Basketball 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 6:00 Girl Scouts 354	<b>25</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>26</b> 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 11:30 OWL's Luncheon 4:00 CFA Basketball 7:00 Midtown AA	<b>27</b> Hospice Meal - Janet Hall	<b>28</b> 6:00 Eucharist
<b>29 4th Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	<b>30</b> 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 4:00 CFA Basketball 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	<b>31</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 6:00 Girl Scouts 354				