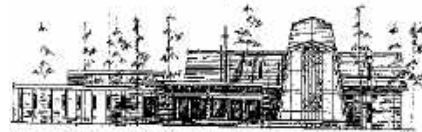


FEBRUARY
2023

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



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 18th and 19th. If you are interested in attending, please contact Donna Capozio at 791-4582 or dcapozio@stmatthewsch.org.



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 February 19th at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each, and may be purchased by going to stmatthewsch.org, then click on the "Give" tab on the far right, and look for the Craig Williams Concert Tickets tile on the top left. 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>

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be February 21st from 5-7 p.m. in McSwain Center. Servants are needed for set-up, cooking, serving, and clean-up. Sign-up sheets to help, and to attend are in the Narthex. A love offering will be taken.



OWLs Luncheon

Thursday, February 23 - 11:30 a.m. in McCombs Hall



This month's luncheon will be catered by Middle of the Island for \$15 per person. On the menu is spaghetti with meat sauce, Fifteen-spice tilapia, rice pilaf, cole slaw, strawberry spinach salad, and apple crisp with ice cream. Sign-up on the big board in the Narthex.

The Lenten Prayer Retreat with Pr. Carl Voges will be on Saturday, February 25th from 8 a.m.- 1 p.m. A registration fee of \$10 helps to defray the cost of the food, and may be paid that morning before the prayer retreat. A sign-up sheet is posted on the big board in the Narthex.



First Communion Class will be March 31st, 12:30-2:00 p.m. One parent must attend with the student, and a pizza lunch will be provided. Please sign-up on the board in the Narthex or contact Donna Capozio at 791-4582 or dcapozio@stmatthewsch.org.



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. Details will be provided, but if you have questions please contact Sue Mowrey at 910-465-2025 via text or voicemail, or email at mowreysu@gmail.com. Thank you for your service!

The St. Matthew's Endowment Team is pleased to announce for 2023 endowment funds in the amount of \$51,260 are available for disbursement for requests that support the mission of St. Matthew's. Teams, organizations, or individuals of St. Matthew's may now submit Endowment Fund Disbursement Request forms for consideration by the Endowment Team. Forms are available in the Church Finance office. Please submit your request **no later than March 31, 2023**. In accordance with the Endowment Fund Charter "disbursements shall not be made to meet operating budget expenses."



Greetings from Pastor Sam

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“This is the first point, especially for the benefits of the cold and indifferent, that they may come to their senses and wake up. It is certainly true, as I have found in my own experience, and as everyone will find in his own case, that if a person stays away from the sacrament, day by day he will become more and more callous and cold, and eventually spurn it altogether. To avoid this, we must examine our heart and conscience and act like a person who really desires to be right with God. The more we do this, the more will our heart be warmed and kindled, and it will not grow entirely cold” (*Large Catechism, Tappert edition*, 453:53-54).

One of the most wrong-headed ideas included in our ELCA constitution is that one can be considered as a voting member of the congregation by communing and contributing once in the current or previous year. Search anywhere in the four gospels or in any of St. Paul’s or the other New Testament letters, and you will never find anything that supports what is essentially country club religion (“I paid my dues and showed up sometime, so I get to remain on the active membership rolls”). I have often imagined that scene when such a one stands before the Lord to give an account of her or his life. Among the many of the Lord Jesus’ remarks that come to mind: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).

Unbelief remains the root sin of every human including Christians. Unbelief is at the heart of why many do not take the Lord Jesus at His Word: “This is my Body. This is my Blood.” Unbelief is at the heart of why many bearing the name of Christ neglect to gather for the services of God’s house. Unbelief is at the heart of proprietary notions of church *ownership* quite apart from being called out of the world to assemble with the Lord and His saints for the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, the Breaking of the Bread, and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Unbelief is at the heart of grandiose thoughts of legacy membership in a congregation or even a denomination (“My people have always been ...”). There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all. The Bible knows nothing of “this church,” as if a particular congregation, synod, or denomination has their own private revelations from the Holy Spirit. Listen!


From the first Christian Pentecost, Christ’s Church has gathered (daily) to receive Him in the Breaking of the Bread, the Lord’s Supper. There is no admonition in the Bible against communing too often, as if you could get too much Jesus. There is no revival worship in Scripture in which the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, the Breaking of the Bread, and the prayers are absent. There is no marketing plan from the Lord Jesus to give people the music, the teaching, and the experience they want or like. In fact, the repeated call from the Lord Jesus and His apostles is to forget yourself. What a far cry from trying to create a membership-based organization that makes me feel comfortable in my sins and does its darnedest only to offend those who take the Lord Jesus at His Word: “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:24).

Unbelief remains the root sin of every human including Christians. Bishops, pastors, theologians, and professional church workers are not immune to unbelief. Many years ago, I came to realize that what those of us in those vocations will likely hear first directly from our Lord’s lips: “You said what?!” St. James warns that we teachers will be judged more strictly, because we can lead the Lord’s people astray with false or bad teaching (3:1). Don’t think that false or bad teaching cannot also come from lay leaders.

The author of the book of Hebrews exhorts: “not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (10:25).

Show up unless you are physically unable in which case we will come to you. You need Jesus, and so do I. Welcome to the Lord’s Table, and do remember Whose it is and Who is there waiting for you every week! Come with sorrow for your sins. Come desiring the amendment of your unbelieving heart and mind.

I love you,



Pr. Sam Zumwalt, STS+
910-538-6705 (new cell phone)

Church Council Meeting - January 14, 2023



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

- Adopted the updated Financial Contingency Plan for 2023.
- Approved the proposal made by QSC Facility Services for janitorial services at a cost of \$1,825/month.
- For ease of account recording (expense recognition), approved the elimination of the salary line for the Sexton (1-501542) for \$14,365 and ADD that amount to Cleaning Services (1-501026) line item, increasing it to \$19,365. This is to account for Robert Shivers no longer being the paid Sexton on staff.
- Approved the purchase a replacement printer for up to \$150 to be charged to Administration Any Use (2-812079) restricted account, for the bookkeeper's duties.
- Approved the rent for The Children's Schoolhouse be increased by 4.17% (to \$375 monthly) beginning in February 2023.
- Reinstated Joy Shaver as the Youth Representative elected at the December 4, 2022 Annual Meeting since her school schedule changed.
- The following elections were held as required in the Constitution: Carol Roller, Assistant Treasurer; Larry and Norma Troutman, Financial Secretary; Darlene Schucker, Parish Records Secretary; Joy Shaver, Recording Secretary.
- The following appointments were made as required by the Constitution: Beth Hales (Chair), Jeff Hollamon, Joyce Crouch, Alan Scheidt, Erika Braje, and Perry Guy to the Nominating Team; Alan Richey and Jon Lindsay for 3-yr terms to the Pastoral Support Team; Darlene Schucker for a 3-yr term to the Parish Records Audit Team; Emily Burke for a 2-yr term to the Seminary Scholarship Team; Lani Beuerman, Scott Mough, Nathan Mough, and Melissa Shaver to the Director of Youth & Family Ministry Search Team.

Operating Fund: December 2022 FINAL		
	Month	YTD
Revenues:	64,778.86	525,201.59
Expenses:	47,494.04	505,295.44
Income/ (Loss)	17,284.82	19,906.15

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven...
(Ecclesiastes 3)*



The New Year is upon us. Some of us have made resolutions and some of us have not. No matter—we expect changes to occur in a New Year! We hope the changes are new seasons and this year is a time for...new ideas, new things, new experiences...better things. But sometimes we still carry old issues from the past, and sometimes we experience new issues that come upon us—ones we don't like or want. We may need help getting through things and issues that come our way!

In spite of this being the start of a new year (a new season), Stephen Ministers are always ready to assist you. Whether you bring issues that have plagued you from the past or experienced new issues that you need us for, we are here to help and to serve you. We listen to you. We pray with you. We offer friendship and comfort you can count on. We are always in season, and there is always a season for us to bring God's love and Christ's message for you. And we are always turned towards you and God. We don't change with a resolution or a new year, but remain your source for assistance, friendship, and comfort that is dependable, trustworthy, and assured.

Remember that even though we are in 2023, a new year, you are never alone: we are with you. If you need assistance, a friend, a prayer partner, and someone who cares about you, consider working with a Stephen Minister. If you need us, turn to Pastor Sam, Ana Marie Jackson, Terry Miller, Jon Lindsay, or any Stephen Minister--and let us help you turn to a better season/year in 2023.

Gifts to Honor and Remember

In Memory of Dorothy Everette, a gift to the Building Fund by Dave Everette.

In Honor of Ed Ludacer for his 86th Birthday, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Paul and Bev Miller, Ron and Suzanne Asmus; a gift to the Youth Fund by Terry and Sue Miller.

In Honor of Fred Jackson, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Carol Comeskey.



1	Charlotte Thompson
1	Joe Mayfield
2	Kimberly Smith
6	Cheryl Penney
6	Larsen Wharton
6	Nathan Mough
7	Scott Monroe
8	Larry Schneider
8	Ayden Snyder
8	Bryce Snyder
9	Susan Mowrey
9	Allison Oxford
10	Belinda Taft
10	Sarah Murrill
11	Nancy Miller
11	Jenny Painter

11	Maxwell Labriola
12	Beverly Hunsberger
12	Brendan Vanderwal
13	Jen Murrill
13	Riley Rappold
14	Karen Schmoke
14	Jeff Hollamon
15	Rita Knoll
15	Kay Thompson
16	Jan Magnus
16	Lauren Hornick
18	Stuart Shaver
21	John Bink
21	Pr. Michael Bergbower
22	Sarah Bishton
23	Elena Icard
24	Richard Thompson
25	Helen Stansbury
25	Alexandria Knight
26	Norma Troutman
26	Brianna Boyer
27	Larry Mahl
27	Thomas Bishton
29	Martha Walker



1	Jerry and Marlene Murrell
2	Dusty and Sophia Pilcher
8	Ed and Traci Boyer
18	Dick and Sherri Hiler
18	Dave and Christi Everette
20	Andrew and Helen Knoll



My heart is overwhelmed by the many prayers, love, cards, and support graciously offered during my mother's illness and subsequent passing. I also appreciate your patience and understanding over the last year as I was balancing being her caretaker and working full-time. Thank you for your compassion and care which has been a comfort, and helped me through a difficult time.

*In God's peace,
Donna Capozio*

Our Christian sympathy is extended to...



Dave and Diane Sundberg on the death of Dave's mother, Laurena Sundberg.

Patty Macino on the death of her sister, Sally Przybranowski.

Martha Caldwell on the death of Jim Caldwell.

Bobby and Karen Roberts, and Becky Howard, on the death of their son and nephew, Eddie Roberts.

The family of Rev'd. Dr. James E. Bennett.

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

Robbie Icard

Alex Schwartz

Nancy Miller

Butch Ruefle

Peggy Barr

Jan Magnus

Sheila Leach

Dusty Pilcher

Cindy Harms

Becky Howard

Christine Dingfelder

Carol Comeskey

Janet Hall

Melissa Shaver

Gina Martuscelli

Art Magnus

Dave Medlin

Joe Mayfield

Helen Knoll

Barbara Duff

Howard Beuerman

Bill Baldwin

Maggie Hoyer

Harry Puckett

Larry Troutman

Steve Weidman

Marie Loflin

Emily Burke

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS:

Amie Knauer

Barbara Colton

Kattie Duff

David Schwartz

John Tullous, Jr.

David Hunsberger

Jo Beth Brinkley

Hudson Dingfelder

Rufus Horne

Jim Campbell

Gene and Marian Poythress

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

Wilma Reed

George Taft

Sue Brehm

Pr. Harry Wolpert

Jack Bell

David Logan

Terry Caldwell

Mary Cromarti

Mary Pat Jones

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>
			1 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	2 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 4:00 CFA Basketball 6:00 CKM 7:00 Exec. Team 7:00 Midtown AA	3 Hospice Meal - Tina Occhiuzzo 3:30 WCA Basketball	4 11:00 Fellowship Team 4:00 Vicar Support Team 6:00 Eucharist
5 5th Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 Eucharist (Johnson baptism) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	6 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	7 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 5:30 Joyful Noise 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 6:30 Stephen Ministry	8 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	9 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 6:30 Council 7:00 Midtown AA	10	11 6:00 Eucharist
12 6th Sunday after Epiphany 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 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 6:00 Girl Scouts 354	15 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	16 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 5:00 Endowment Team 7:00 Midtown AA	17	18 9:00 New Member Orientation 12:00 American Heritage Girls - Dance 6:00 Eucharist; New members received
19 Transfiguration 8:30 Eucharist, New members received 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist; New members received 4:00 Organ Concert - Craig Williams	20 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	21 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 5:00 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 5:30 Joyful Noise 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 6:30 Stephen Ministry	22 Ash Wednesday 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Ash Wed. Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Ash Wed. Euch.	23 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 11:30 OWL's Luncheon 6:00 MS/HS Youth 7:00 Midtown AA	24 Hospice Meal - Janet Hall	25 8:00 Lenten Prayer Retreat w/Pr. Voges 6:00 Eucharist
26 1st Sunday in Lent 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	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 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 6:00 Girl Scouts 354				

Upcoming Worship and Events

March 1 - Midweek Lenten Eucharist, 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

March 4-5 - Second Sunday in Lent, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am, and 11:00 am

March 6 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

March 8 - Midweek Lenten Eucharist, 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

March 11 - Daylight Saving Begins - turn your clocks ahead one hour tonight.

March 11-12 - Third Sunday in Lent, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am (Contemporary), and 11:00 am

March 13 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

March 15 - Midweek Lenten Eucharist, 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

March 18-19 - Fourth Sunday in Lent, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am, and 11:00 am

March 20 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

March 22 - Midweek Lenten Eucharist, 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

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

March 27 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

March 29 - Midweek Lenten Eucharist, 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm