

DECEMBER
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 Layla Isabel Duff on receiving First Communion on November 6th. Layla Isabel is the daughter of Matt and Kattie Duff, and the granddaughter of Barbara Teigland-Duff.



Welcome to Belinda Taft who transferred in and was received into membership on November 6th.



Nave Decorating

Nave Decorating & Pizza Supper is Thursday December 15th starting at 6:00 pm. Please sign up on the board in the narthex.

The next **New Disciples Class** for those new to the Lutheran church or new to Christianity is on Saturday, January 14th from 9 a.m. to noon. There are no strings attached for those attending, but this is the first step towards membership at St. Matthew's. The following **New Member Orientation** for Lutheran transfers and those who previously attended the New Disciples Class is on Saturday, February 18, from 9-11:30 a.m. We receive the first new members of 2023 February 18 and 19. If you are interested in attending either class, please contact Donna Capozio in the office at 791-4582 or dcapezio@stmatthewsch.org.



Owl's Luncheon - December 15

Starting at 11:30am in McCombs Hall. The meal will be catered by Middle of the Island for \$15 per person, and the menu is meatloaf, chicken & pastry, mashed potatoes, green beans, house salad, and banana pudding. You may also bring a holiday treat to share with the group. Sign up on the board in the Narthex.



MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP AT NOON AND 7 P.M.

November 30: Pr. Robert Kuppler preaches, "Suddenly," (Matthew 24:36-44)
December 7: Pr. Peter Hoyer preaches, "It's A Mighty Fine Garment," (Matthew 3:1-12)
December 14: Pr. Michael Bergbower preaches, "Holy Hope," (Matthew 11:2-11)

GERMAN CHRISTMASS EUCHARIST

Saturday, December 17, 12 Noon
Pr. Zumwalt preaches, "Heiliger Sohn," (Jesaja 9:6)

WHOM WILL YOU INVITE TO CHRISTMASS EVE AT ST. MATTHEW'S?

Pr. Samuel Zumwalt preaches, "Holy Son," (Isaiah 9:6)

CHRISTMASS DAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 - ONE EUCHARIST ONLY AT 10 A.M.

Pr. Samuel Zumwalt preaches, "Holy Savior," (Isaiah 52:7-10)

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING on Sunday, December 4, at 1 p.m. in McSwain Activity Center following a sandwich lunch. Election of officers, council members, Endowment Team members, NC Synod Voting Members, approval of the 2023 spending plan, and a proposed change to the Endowment Fund charter concerning language potentially restricting the use of endowment funds for reduction of capital debt.



SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING on Sunday, January 22, at 1 p.m. in McSwain Activity Center. This is the second of two meetings to be called at the request of 94 voting members. We will vote whether to terminate our affiliation with the ELCA and, if by more than 66% of voting members present, then by majority vote of voting members present to affiliate with another Lutheran church body. An official announcement by the church council of the specifics of this meeting will follow in December.

Greetings from Pastor Sam

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we begin a new church year, my overarching preaching theme will be “Holy Communion,” the third of Martin Luther’s seven marks of the true Church. You may remember that the first two marks are The Word of God and Holy Baptism. With the end of the previous church year on Christ the King Sunday, I completed three years of preaching on New Testament epistles (the second reading each weekend). Now, I have begun a three-year cycle of preaching on lessons from the Old Testament, the only Bible of the early Church. Whether Peter, Paul, or one of the other apostles, all preached regularly from what we call the Old Testament, declaring what the one God has done through His Beloved Son Jesus Christ. Do your best to read the preaching text before coming for worship or while the prelude is being played.

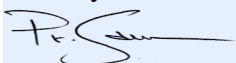
Forty-one years ago, my first LCA Bishop Phil Wahlberg suggested that I gather a group of laypersons in my mission congregation to do sermon study each week. That was some of the best advice he gave me, and I have continued that pattern in every congregation since. The first half of the weekly session is devoted to feedback on the previous day’s sermon, and, then, the second half is spent looking at the text for the coming weekend’s sermon. Pastors hear texts differently, because we have been taught a particular way of reading. Most laypersons hear texts very differently, and that is what has made having a sermon study group so valuable. Newcomers are always welcome. We meet Mondays at noon in 117.

So, Advent begins the first Sunday where the previous year concludes with the end of things as we know them. We confess each week in the creed that the Lord Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. He is repeatedly clear that God wins and evil does not. As much as we might hope that hell is empty, our Lord does not promise universal salvation. His death is for all sinners, yes, but He has not promised that none will be lost by their own reprobate will. In the second and third Sundays, John the Baptist prepares the way for Lord with the preaching of repentance and the joy of knowing our Lord’s abiding presence with His own in Word and Sacraments. Finally, the fourth Sunday prepares us for the celebration of the Messiah’s birth, God with us in Mary’s womb and, then, in Bethlehem’s manger. God Himself comes in flesh and blood to save us sinners from sin, death, and the old evil one.

Holy Communion is grounded in the incarnation of God’s Son Jesus. Just as He is both God and man, so the Eucharist is the Word of God made flesh and blood in the earthly stuff of bread and wine. We speak of the sacramental union, where we share in the eternal life and love of the Holy Trinity as we eat and drink as our Lord commands. This is the meal of the family of God, and so it is reserved for those sinners who have been buried and raised with the Lord Jesus in the washing of Holy Baptism. We come with empty hands to receive the gifts of God for the people of God. We do not serve God in worship. He serves us in His Word and, most intimately, in His Supper. Properly, we celebrate the Divine Service or Divine Liturgy, because this is where the Holy Trinity shares His life and love with His Church. At the Lord’s Table, we are joined not only with each other and all the baptized on earth but also with the faithful of every time and place who are with the Lord and, thus, with us there.

Holy Communion, which St. Luke calls “the Breaking of the Bread” (Luke 24 and Acts 2), is the specifically Christian way of worship from the Day of Pentecost and beyond. Our Lord mandated Holy Baptism to make disciples, and our Lord promised specifically to be in the Host and the Cup. The searching question to ask is “why do some Christians not emphasize Holy Baptism and Holy Communion as fundamental, yes, as essential, to the practice of the Christian faith?” Martin Luther’s response would be, because that is not the Church. Where the Lord’s commanded sacraments are not present as the means of His grace, His Church is not found... no matter how large, how cool, how good it makes one feel. By the same token, if the proper name of the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is not confessed, there is no Baptism and, no matter how beautifully a liturgy may be performed, the Triune God is not present. We need Jesus, Son of the Father and of the Virgin Mary, proclaimed by the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father through the Son, *where* He has promised to be -- in Word and Sacrament. So, then, if you want to see Jesus and be with Him, “let us not neglect meeting together as is the habit of some” (Hebrews 10:25).

I love you,



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



Church Council Meeting - November 10, 2022

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

- Approved Cohan Contractors LLC as the contractor for the office wing remodel, for a cost up to \$75,000.
- Approved a motion from the Finance Team that the Contingency Fund (2-810550) be increased by \$500 with funds taken from Loose Cash received over the next four weeks.
- Approved the removal of 88 people from the membership roster as submitted by the Parish Records Audit Team. There were 64 confirmed members, and 24 baptized/unconfirmed.
- Approved two non-members to be cashiers at the 2022 Christkindlmarkt festival: Linda Tennant and Sophia Pilcher. Both are well-known to the congregation.
- Approved members of the Christkindlmarkt core team to use personal devices (smart phones) to accept charge card payments on behalf of the church. These members are: Joyce Crouch, Kris Auch, Norma Troutman, Marti Felter, Diane Guy, Melissa Shaver, Connie Forler, Irene Glaeser, Lynette Farmer and Carol Roller.
- Called the annual congregational meeting for Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 1:00 pm in the McSwain Activity Center. The agenda items will be: election of officers, election of new members to the Congregation Council, election of Endowment Team members, election of 2023 NC Synod Assembly delegates, adoption of the 2023 budget, and approval of proposed changes to the Endowment Fund Charter, Bylaws and Operating Procedures. No other business will be conducted at this meeting.
- Approved the following slate for election at the annual meeting: Becky Howard, Vice President 2-year term; Sue Miller, Treasurer 2-year term; Joy Shaver, Youth Rep 1-year term; Council Members Fred Doll, Mike Harrington, David Medlin and Harry Puckett for 2-year terms and Joyce Crouch for a 1-year term.
- Approved the nomination of Paul and Bev Miller as St. Matthew's representatives to the 2023 NC Synod Assembly.
- Approved the membership of Belinda Taft.
- Approved presentation of the proposed Annual Spending Plan for 2023 in the amount of \$638,708.00, subject to any changes resulting from the budget forum on November 20, 2022.

Operating Fund: October 2022		
	Month	YTD
Revenues:	57,643.18	424,016.10
Expenses:	<u>41,022.12</u>	<u>419,035.94</u>
Income/ (Loss)	16,621.06	4,980.16



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 Pastor Sam, Ana Marie Jackson, Terry Miller, Jon Lindsay, or any of the Stephen Ministers. We will come.

Gifts to Honor and Remember

IN MEMORY OF HARRY COMESKEY, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Lucy Hieronymus, The Children's Schoolhouse, Ruth and Bill Rice; a gift to the Organ Fund by Grace, Kathy, and Mike Koder; a gift to the SAF by Brigitte Walters, Fred and Ana Maria Jackson; a gift to Office Renovations by Charles and Darlene Schucker, Al and Beverly Hunsberger; a gift to the Endowment Fund by Ruthe and Jim Markworth; a gift to the Property Fund by Jack Kuske; a gift to C-ing the Way Forward by Joe and Diane Rumsey.

IN MEMORY OF RON FRACALOSSI, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Jacqueline Karch and Bill Keach, Robert and Mirlyn Salmon, Christa Gerfelder, Hudson Valley Community College Faculty Student Association.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID, a gift to the General Fund by Leslie Long.

IN MEMORY OF GLADYS BANKS, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Bob and Elaine Willow.

IN HONOR OF FRIENDS, a gift to OWL's by Peggy Barr.



1 Leslie Long
 1 Samantha Kline
 1 Lauren Gains
 1 Tom Russell
 1 Tony Nelson
 2 Pat Manor
 3 Sheila Leach
 3 Chantay Allen
 3 John Antonelli
 4 Cindy Antonelli
 5 Bill Gourville
 5 Brian Tobin
 5 Rod Andrew
 7 Lou Painter
 7 Adam Thompson
 8 Terry Crouch
 8 Jody Burke
 9 Jean Hoehler

9 Al Scheidt
 10 Hannah Schneider
 10 Audrey Oring
 11 David Forler
 12 Cindy Lindsay
 12 Kevin Johnson
 13 Stephanie Price
 15 Abel Caulkins
 15 Joshua Buel
 17 Cindy Harms
 18 Terry Miller
 19 Joan Fracalossi
 19 Larry Knott
 21 Jon Lindsay
 24 Helen Knoll
 24 Christi Everette
 24 Tracy Plumley
 26 Jordan Gourville
 27 Gina Martuscelli
 28 Sharon Callender
 30 Rose Weidman
 30 Dan Cumbo
 30 John Beall
 31 Easley McCombs
 31 Jonathan Moore



2 Brandon & Ashley Caulkins
 11 Jon & Cindy Lindsay
 14 Larry & Sara Schneider
 20 Lou & Jenny Painter
 21 Needham & Sylvia Hall
 22 Arthur & Barbara Moore
 26 Paul & Bev Miller
 28 Stan & Jane Brunt
 30 Fred & June Doll
 30 Gilbert & Karen Alphin



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	Terry Miller	Nancy Miller
Keith Farmer	John Tullous	Butch Ruefle
Donna Siegmund	Denis Hall	Peggy Barr
Kenn Slocum	Barbara Duff	Jan Magnus
Pat Mahl	Lynette Farmer	Sheila Leach
Liz Newbery	Peggy Davis	Dusty Pilcher
George Schwenzer	Kay Thompson	Cindy Harms
Lani Beuerman	Tina Medlin	Becky Howard
Pr. Marv Schedler	Carolyn Hooker	Christine Dingfelder
Lon Ostby	Lois Kuppler	Gina Martuscelli
Laura Matthess	Nate Holway	Helen Knoll
Micki Matthess	Joel Peterson	Carol Comeskey
Jane and Willard Dove	Arthur and Barbara Moore	Maggie Hoyer
Ed Ludacer	Ken Manning	Janet Hall
Leslie Long	Bill Baldwin	Marie Loflin
Carrie McDonough	Robbie Icard	
Gabriela Walters	Alex Schwartz	

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS:

Amie Knauer	Ron Bloom	Beth Jarrott
Barbara Colton	Robert Shaffer	Sharon Hatcher
Kattie Duff	Wilhelmina Stanland	Barbara Brennaman
David Schwartz	Carla Ramm	Patricia Kucker
John Tullous, Jr.	Elena Scalora	Deanna Hart
David Hunsberger	Mary Miller	Jennifer Stirrat
Sally Przybranowski	David Searle	Jean Langrell
Jo Beth Brinkley	Heidi Baldwin	Annie Ferry and Elizabeth
Hudson Dingfelder	Ashley Lawson	Julia Bennett
Rufus Horne	Kathryn Webster	
Jim Campbell	Tom Seip	
Gene and Marian Poythress	Melvin Proctor	
Laurena Sundberg	David Case	
Peter Thomas	Jim Villa	
Alice Copeland	Corrie Formica	
Megan McKinney	Lloyd Moore	

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Elsie Cates	Margaret French	Laura Gray
Nancy Fauser	Ruthann Getsinger	Jane McDougald

Hospice Meals



The 2023 Hospice Meal sign-up is posted in the Narthex, and soon and we will be supplying dinners for the families 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!

Upcoming Worship and Events

December 31-January 1 - The Name of Jesus, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 10:00 am

January 2 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

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

January 6 - Epiphany, Eucharists 12:00pm and 7:00pm

January 7-8 - The Baptism of Our Lord, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am (Contemporary), and 11:00 am

January 9 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

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

January 14-15 - Second Sunday after Epiphany, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am, and 11:00 am

January 15 - Tickets to Craig Williams Organ Concert available to SMLC members through January 31st

January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Church Office closed; Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

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

January 21 - New Disciples Class, 9:00 am

January 21-22 - Third Sunday after Epiphany, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am (Contemporary), and 11:00 am

January 22 - Special Congregational Meeting, 1:00 pm

January 23 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

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

January 28-29 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am, and 11:00 am

January 30 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 10:00 Crossways 4:00 CFA Basketball 7:00 Midtown AA	2 3:30 WCA Basketball	3 9:00 New Member Orientation 11:00 Fellowship Team 6:00 Eucharist
4 2nd Sunday in Advent 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 Annual Congregational Lunch and Meeting	5 9:00 Counting Team 4:00 CFA Basketball 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	6 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	7 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 11:00 Finance Team 12:00 Advent Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer 7:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Confirmation	8 10:00 Crossways 4:00 CFA Basketball 6:30 Council 7:00 Midtown AA	9 Youth Caroling 3:30 WCA Basketball	10 6:00 Eucharist
11 3rd Sunday in Advent 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 Grief Support Group 4:00 Girls Choir of Wilmington Concert	12 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 3:30 WCA Basketball 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	13 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Faith Circle 1:00 Peace Circle 3:30 WCA Basketball 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 6:00 Girl Scouts 354	14 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Advent Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer 7:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Confirmation	15 10:00 Crossways 11:30 OWL's Luncheon 3:30 WCA Basketball 6:00 Nave decorating 7:00 Midtown AA	16 3:30 WCA Basketball	17 12:00 German Svc. 6:00 Eucharist
18 4th Sunday in Advent 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	19 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	20 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	21 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Adult Choir	22 7:00 Midtown AA	23 Church Office closed Hospice Meal	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 Eucharist 8:30 Eucharist 11:00 Eucharist
25 Christmas Day 10:00 Eucharist	26 Church Office closed 9:00 Counting Team 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	27 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 Social Ministry 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 6:00 Girl Scouts 354	28 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch.	29 7:00 Midtown AA	30 Church Office closed	31 New Year's Eve 6:00 Eucharist