

NOVEMBER  
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



Daylight Saving ends so remember to turn your clocks back one hour  
Saturday night, November 5<sup>th</sup>!



On November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> *Bees on a Mission* quilt ministry will be arranging this year's quilts in the sanctuary, as we have done in the past. We do this as a reminder of the people in our community and around the world who, for many different reasons, have nothing. Women and children who have to leave everything in order to find safety, families who have lost employment and are trying to get back on their feet, third-world citizens who live in constant poverty. It's easy to forget how blessed we are and sometimes it's a good idea to reflect on those who struggle daily just to survive. As we pray over our finished quilts, let us also pray for those who will receive them, that they may find comfort not just in being warm, but in knowing that strangers care enough about them to create and send them a little piece of hope.

Some of our fabric donations allow us to create quilts that turn out to be extra pretty. Remember, if you see one that catches your eye and want to have it for your own, you can purchase it. Your \$70 donation will be used to replenish our batting and backing supplies. Just look for one of the quilters after the service. St Matthew's congregation has been so supportive of our quilt ministry in donating fabric, purchasing quilts, and in monetary donations. It has been difficult to watch as the cost of batting and backings has doubled since we started just a few years ago. As always, we appreciate your support and prayers for this important and rewarding mission.



Our next **New Disciples Class** for adults new to the Lutheran church is on Saturday, November 5, from 9am to 12pm. Those, who have never been baptized with water in the name of the Triune God, will also be prepared for Holy Baptism. **New Member Orientation** for Lutheran transfers and those who attended the New Disciples Class will be Saturday, December 3, from 9-11:30am. We will receive new members on the weekend of December 3-4. If you will be attending please contact Donna Capozio.

Faith Circle will meet in the Library on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10am. The topic for discussion will be Chapter 3 of the book "Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. This chapter deals with the relationship between Mary and Elizabeth, and is a familiar story. If you don't have the book, read Malachi 4, and Luke 1:5-80. Shannon Bream writes: "Both of them had miraculous paths to motherhood, and both gave birth to men who changed the world forever." Please feel free to join us.



Don't forget to bring back your *Operation Christmas Child* Shoeboxes by November 13<sup>th</sup> and be sure to include shipping costs!

The CKM Team will once again have Advent Wreaths for sale November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Be sure to stop by the table in the Narthex to purchase yours!



We will have the joy of having the Girls' Choir of Wilmington singing at the 11:00 Eucharist on Sunday, November 13th. Please be sure to join us!



Advent begins Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and we will need families or couples to light the Advent Wreath. Please sign-up on the big board in the Narthex.

## *Greetings from Pastor Sam*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:13-18).*

This passage is one of those key Bible passages that any disciple at a church named for St. Matthew really ought to know by heart. Our Lord Jesus Christ is still asking each person, “Who do you say that I am?” That means “you” singular and not “all y’all!” Yes, “Who do **you** say that I am?”

In a culture awash in other stories that flatly contradict His story, our Lord Jesus’ question is a glaring in your face. Too often the biblically illiterate or the wickedly revisionist offer a demand to the Lord Jesus Christ: “You are who **we** say you are.” Selectively quoting and misquoting Scripture, we hear the Lord Jesus Christ described as “loving” in a way that ignores His radical demand to take up one’s cross and follow Him. The Author and Giver of Life becomes a Marxist icon, a hedonist boyfriend, and even a shill for the abortion industry. When one fears, loves, and trusts politics, family, friends, pleasure, and the culture of death more than the only God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), one pretends the Lord Jesus will not come in glory to judge the living and the dead. Bible interpretation awash in unbelief will be no excuse.

All the early heresies that troubled Israel and then the Church are still among us. Baalism is a pleasure-based fertility religion with sacred prostitutes. Many today are not aware that they have sold their bodies for the sexual satisfaction of others, yes, even to provide designer babies for those who cannot or will not be fruitful and multiply within biblical marriage. The worship of Molech is child sacrifice. The abortion industry supported by politicians, big business, academia, and popular culture is all about gaining success through child sacrifice. Gnosticism, which denies the goodness of God’s creation, like the old Matrix movies, is alive and well in the separation of sex from gender and in the celebration of sexual pleasure however one wants or desires. The new asceticism, which is also rooted in Gnostic ideas, is lurking in the fastidiousness one finds about what one eats and drinks. Then, there is Arianism, which denies that the Lord Jesus is truly God and truly human. Two 19<sup>th</sup> century American religions known for going door to door are the major faces of Arianism in America, but one finds tremendous confusion about who the Lord Jesus Christ, His Father, and the Holy Spirit (the one God in three persons) **are** both in charismatic and non-denominational groups. Then, one still finds the Judaizers of Galatians alive if not well where one finds legalistic teaching with the Lord Jesus Christ as lawgiver rather than Savior of the world.

Some strain of Covid will be with us perpetually, and so it is time to stop clinging to the fear of death. If you are physically fragile, take the steps you need to protect your health, yes, but show up Wednesday noon or Saturday evening when the assembly is smaller. If you have used the excuse that St. Matthew’s is changing, then hear this. We are confessing the same creeds, using the same liturgies, singing the same hymns, teaching and preaching the same Christian faith in fidelity to the Scriptures, and are still answering with Simon Peter: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Lurkers and schismatics are on notice that if you have borne false testimony against the St. Matthew’s community in these days, you do well to revisit Luther’s Small Catechism on the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment. And, if you have been drawn into the heresies that have plagued God’s people, repent, whether you be bishop, pastor, lay person, or theologian. Our Lord Jesus Christ is still asking **you**: “But who do **you** say that I am?”

I love you,



Pastor Sam Zumwalt+



### Church Council Meeting - October 13, 2022

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

- The Property Team will investigate possible repairs/maintenance needed on the stained glass windows in the nave.
- Approved the final payment of \$2000 to Grace Baptist for the concert piano in the nave
- Approved Robert Shivers as our vicar in 2023, with his monthly stipend to be paid from the Seminary Support Fund.
- Called a Special Congregation meeting for January 22, 2023 at 1:00 pm for the purpose of a second vote to disaffiliate from the ELCA and join another Lutheran denomination. Official notice will be delivered separately. Please mark your calendars now!
- Reviewed bids for office wing remodel. Further details needed before a contractor is selected.
- Approved new members Larry & Becky Knott.

<u>Operating Fund: September 2022</u>		
	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>	33,959.68	366,372.92
<b>Expenses:</b>	<u>42,655.88</u>	<u>378,013.82</u>
<b>Income/ (Loss)</b>	(8,696.20)	(11,640.90)



Just a reminder...There is no OWL's Luncheon for November due to scheduling conflicts. Luncheons will resume in December, so stay tuned for details.



- 2 Kris Auch
- 4 Calvin Oring
- 4 Shauna Ruefle
- 7 Linda Joyce
- 8 Brandon Calkins
- 9 Marcie Schedler
- 9 Kathy Koder
- 10 Rebecca Seip
- 10 Tanya Puckett
- 13 Jim Buel
- 14 Bryce Gains
- 14 Jean P. Manley
- 15 Becky Howard

- 15 Barbara Moore
- 17 Doris Prillamon
- 17 Tracy Darnell
- 17 Al Glaeser
- 18 David Medlin
- 19 Barbara Butzin
- 19 Cameron Plumley
- 20 Heidi Apel
- 20 Margaret Ballantine
- 23 Joyce Crouch
- 23 Cyndi Price
- 25 Howard Beurman
- 26 Bob Benoit
- 26 Susan Raia
- 26 Judy Kettner
- 28 Walt Brehm
- 28 Beth Hales
- 29 Bonnie Nyhus
- 29 Raymond Shaver
- 30 Jim Whitmeyer



- 4 Mike & Jen Murrill
- 16 Todd & Sarah Bishton
- 19 Bob & Barbara Haack
- 24 Denis & Janet Hall
- 30 John & Cindy Antonelli



September 26, 2022

To our St. Matthew's family,

It is with great sadness and regret that we are leaving our church family at St. Matthew's. We have surrendered to the tyranny of distance. The multiple medial trips to Wilmington have driven our decision to find a church family closer to home.

We have begun the process of joining Transfiguration Catholic Church here in Wallace. We will be attending the Saturday night service with many of our friends and neighbors. We can't continue the 11:00 service because our Spanish isn't so good.

Thank you all for the fellowship, prayers, love and support you have so graciously provided us.

God's peace and blessings to you all.  
Joel and Cindi Peterson



Pastor Marv and Marcie wish to thank all those who came to our 90th Birthday Celebration. You are wonderful people. We also thank all those who took the time to send a card or 2. You are just as great. And to those unnamed people who gave gifts to various special funds at St. Matthew's. You are also acknowledged even though we don't know your names.

It was a great celebration, thanks to our heavenly Father who gave us the blessings of life and 5 great children and their families (That's what I mean by 'pardonably proud'). We are grateful to them. And your generosity humbles us. May God the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit be with us and keep us in the true faith forever.



Congratulations to Alexander Rhe Monroe and Blaire Maxley Monroe, son and daughter of Scott and Christi Monroe and grandchildren of Richard and Kay Thompson, on receiving First Communion on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Brennan Swidorski, son of Tyler Swidorski, and grandson of Ray and Karen Schmoke, on receiving First Communion November 6<sup>th</sup>.



Welcome to Larry and Becky Knott who transferred in and were received into membership on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Sandy O'Donnell and Scott Mough are now training to be commissioned as Stephen Ministers in February of 2023. We ask for your prayers that they may come through with a clear sense of commitment to the ministry. We are looking forward to having them as part of the Stephen Ministry Team.

As the holidays approach, there is lightness in the air, and a flurry of activity to prepare to celebrate with family and friends. It is important to keep in mind that those who are grieving may experience an upsurge in their grief as they remember, and miss, those who are no longer around. The pain, the sadness may intensify.

If you, or someone you know, is "dreading" the holidays, and would like to vent some of these feelings, please do not hesitate to call on our Stephen Ministry team. Ana María Jackson (910) 599-5622, Jon Lindsay (770)356-5093, Terry Miller (910) 619-3742, Pastor Sam Zumwalt (910)791-4582.



## *Gifts to Honor and Remember*

**IN HONOR OF PR. MARV AND MARCIE SCHEDLER FOR THEIR 90th BIRTHDAYS**, a gift to C-ing the Way Forward by Charles and Darlene Schucker; a gift to the Organ Fund by Fred and Ana Maria Jackson, Grace, Kathy, and Mike Koder.



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

Perry and Diane Guy on the death of Perry's brother, Gregory Guy  
Gilbert and Karen Alphin on the death of Karen's mother, Frances Rud  
Harry and Carol Comeskey on the death of their sister-in-law, Janice Comeskey  
Erika Braje on the death of her friend, A.J. Potts  
Carol Comeskey, and family, on the death of Harry Comeskey

### **MEMBERS:**

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

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

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

### **REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:**

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

An Indoor and Outdoor German Christmas Festival

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
612 S. College Rd. Wilmington, NC  
Website: [stmatthewsch.org](http://stmatthewsch.org)

# Christkindlmarkt

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

- \* Harbour Towne Fest Band
- \* Potato Salad & Brats
- \* Beer and Warm Spiced Wine
- \* Imported German Beers (to go!)
- \* Baked Goods and Candies
- \* German Ornaments & Gifts
- \* Specialty Items  
& Novelty Gifts
- \* Silent Auction
- \* Petting Zoo
- \* Father Christmass
- \* Nave Tours

\$3.00 Admission Fee  
Kids 12 & Under FREE!  
(\$10 max per family)

♥  
Free parking





## Hospice Meals

The 2023 Hospice Meal sign-up will be posted 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 3** - New Member Orientation, 9:00 am

**December 3-4** - Second Sunday in Advent, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am, and 11:00 am; Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday at 1:00 pm

**December 5** - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

**December 7** - Midweek Advent Eucharist, 12:00 pm; Midweek Advent Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm

**December 10-11** - Third Sunday in Advent, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am (Contemporary), and 11:00 am

**December 12** - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

**December 14** - Midweek Advent Eucharist, 12:00 pm; Midweek Advent Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm

**December 17** - German Christmas Eucharist, 12:00 pm

**December 17-18** - Fourth Sunday in Advent, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am, and 11:00 am

**December 19** - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

**December 21** - Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

**December 23** - Church Office closed.

**December 24** - Christmas Eve, Eucharists 5:00, 8:30, and 11:00 pm

**December 25** - Christmass Day, Eucharist 10:00 am

**December 26** - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm; Church Office closed.

**December 28** - Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

**December 30** - Church Office closed.

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

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 3:30 WCA Basketball 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 6:30 Stephen Ministry	<b>2</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>3</b> 10:00 Quilt Ministry 10:00 Crossways 3:30 WCA Basketball 7:00 Midtown AA	<b>4</b> 3:30 WCA Basketball	<b>5 Daylight Savings Ends - turn clocks back 1 hour</b>  9:00 New Disciples Class 11:00 Fellowship Team 6:00 Eucharist; Blessing of the Quilts
<b>6 All Saints</b> Blessing of the Quilts 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	<b>7</b> 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 4:00 CFA Basketball 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	<b>8</b> 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. 5:30 Joyful Noise 6:00 Girl Scouts 354	<b>9</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>10</b> 10:00 Quilt Ministry 10:00 Crossways 6:30 Church Council 4:00 CFA Basketball 7:00 Midtown AA	<b>11 Veterans Day</b> 3:30 WCA Basketball  <i>Deadline for Annual Reports from Ministry Teams, Church Leaders, and Staff</i>	<b>12</b> 6:00 Eucharist  CKM Advent Calendar Sale
<b>13 23rd Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist; GCW singing 12:30 Grief Support Group  Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes due.  CKM Advent Calendar Sale	<b>14</b> 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 4:00 CFA Basketball 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	<b>15</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 6:30 Stephen Ministry  CKM Set-up	<b>16</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  CKM Set-up	<b>17</b> 10:00 Quilt Ministry 10:00 Crossways (Midtown AA offsite)  CKM Set-up	<b>18</b>  CKM Set-up	<b>19</b> 10:00 Christkindmarkt 6:00 Eucharist
<b>20 Christ the King</b> 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School (children and youth) 9:45 Budget Forum 11:00 Eucharist	<b>21</b> 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	<b>22</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 Social Ministry 3:30 WCA Basketball 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Thanksgiving Eucharist	<b>23</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Thanksgiving Eucharist	<b>24 Thanksgiving Church Office closed</b> 7:00 Midtown AA	<b>25 Church Office closed</b> Hospice Meal	<b>26</b> 6:00 Eucharist
<b>27 1st Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30 Eucharist (C) 11:00 Eucharist	<b>28</b> 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 4:00 CFA Basketball 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	<b>29</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 3:30 WCA Basketball 5:15 Girls Choir Wilm. 6:00 Girl Scouts 354	<b>30</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Advent Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer 7:30 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir			