

APRIL 2026

The Encounter

Monthly Newsletter of St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



"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.

Our Vision

A welcoming family, encouraging lives of service to Christ.



A reminder that in observance of Holy Week, all classes and activities are cancelled except for those listed on the calendar.



We are so excited for our Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th at 10:00 am!

The Easter Egg Hunt will be for children and students up to 12 years old!

We hope to see you there!

Faith Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 14th, at 10am in the Library.

Join us for fellowship and wonderful discussions.

All women are welcome to attend.



OWL's Luncheon is April 23rd at 11:30 am in McCombs Hall

Cost is \$10 per person, and the menu is pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, spinach salad, rolls, and dessert.

Be sure to sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Benefitting 2026 Christkindlmarkt

Saturday, May 2

8:00 am - 12:00 pm



Please note: We will **NOT** be accepting clothing or shoes.

DROP OFF: Donations can be dropped off IN THE GYM Sunday, April 26 (after 12:00) through Friday, May 1.

Call ahead to be sure someone is available to open the door.

Please help by sorting your items in designated areas.

Helpers are needed to: sort & stage donations price items
tally purchases accept payments
floor help (answering questions, straightening merchandise, etc.)
packing up after the sale

Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have questions, contact:

Gina Martuscelli Vanderwal: 910-200-6747 or **Beth Hales:** 919-622-7015



Greek Festival Parking Help Needed - May 15-17th

The annual Greek Festival is coming up quick, and the Youth group is in need of servants at our annual Greek Festival Parking Fundraiser May 15th - 17th! We will need quite a few helpers to direct parking and collect donations throughout the days of the festival! All of the proceeds collected will go toward the youth program, our Higher Things Trip costs this summer, as well as future trips. Please consider serving at this fundraiser as it is an amazing opportunity to raise money for our Youth program. We will have drinks and snacks available for those who help. To sign up, please contact Ms. Kristine (dyfm@stmatthewsch.org) with the date and times that work best for you to serve.

Thank you for your help and support!

Greetings from Pastor Sam

Beloved Children of God,

Beginning January 10, I taught, for our AALC seminary, an online Doctor of Ministry course every Thursday afternoon from 1-3:30 p.m. for ten weeks. Nine pastors in a variety of pastoral ministry contexts prepared for class weekly by reading fifty or more pages from the Bible, the Lutheran Confessions, chapters in several pastoral care books, and even excerpts from novels and one short story. The class was entitled “The Wounded Healer: Personal Spiritual Formation,” and along the way each man discovered his role as pastor *is* to be father of a household of faith. I was quite taken by their discoveries as they moved beyond the typical misuse of our Lord’s “call no man father” in Matthew 23:9 to a discovery not only in St. Paul (1 Corinthians 4:18 and 1 & 2 Timothy 1:2) but in St. John (1 John 2:1ff) and even as the various passages related to fathers can likewise be applied to pastoral ministry.

I am telling you about this work, which along with a required course on the AALC’s History and Polity that Deacon and I had to audit with assigned chapters to read from three history books, because the two courses added fifteen hours each week to my normal sixty hours’ average work week. As expected, those hours were taken from family and self-care time. That half of those weeks overlapped with Lent made it even more challenging. So, happily, I am able to be more focused as your father in Christ. Our Lord’s admonishing Word in Matthew 23:9 is all about *not* seeking worldly power and glory and trying to hide behind titles. One does not have to have the title “father” to find that sort of thing in any walk of life. The physicians, professors, and pastors who will sit down with you face-to-face are much more impressive and authoritative than those who hide behind a desk or a title. My Methodist chaplain supervisor at Parkland Hospital, Bob Davis, used to say that there are prestigious persons not degrees or institutions.

So, asking as your father in Christ: Where are you on your faith journey? Are you continuing to grow and mature in your faith? Or, are you more an occasional consumer of spiritual goods? For instance, is being a Lutheran Christian more a cultural thing your family always did? Do you tend to think being Christian is generic? (It’s *not* even though most Christians have more in common than we do with other faiths.) When you go to worship is it *all about you* and what you like or don’t? Or, do you understand that worship is what the Triune God does for us and our salvation? When you read Scripture, are you capable of discovering how little you really know? Or, is what you know a series of remembered slogans uttered by a pastor, a parent, or a partisan in some religious war? (There is a difference between *what the Bible says* **and** *what people often say it says*. I’m thinking of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion right now.)

Over the years, many of us pastors have had that occasional conflict with a person or persons who wanted to be in charge and didn’t want the pastor to be the father of the household of faith. Very rarely, I have had to remind someone that he or she has not been called to be the pastor. Sometimes, the person was working out what I call “daddy issues,” i.e., old hurts from childhood, and projecting those hurts onto the pastor. That is a deeply spiritual malady that needs guidance, prayer, and healing. Unaddressed, a congregation can become the target of a wrecking ball of anger swinging wildly. Because St. Matthew’s has a healthy spiritual immune system, we have survived a few of those moments in time.

Most of you have heard me say that the black clothing reminds the pastor, “It’s not about you,” and the white collar reminds him, “It’s about Jesus, the Light of the world.” Being a good father is not about power. It is about serving as God commands, speaking Law and Gospel with His authority, and caring for those who are forgetting who and Whose they are. I treasure being your father in Christ and beg of you to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Start by showing up often in Holy Week.

Your father in Christ,



Pastor Sam Zumwalt+



Thank you to everyone who has signed up so far
to supply meals for Lower Cape Fear LifeCare Hospice!
Dates are still open from August through December.

See the sign up sheet and details about meals
On the bulletin board in the Narthex.



Church Council

At the regular Council meeting, the following was approved:

- Two continuing resolutions were approved: Establishment of Special Congregation Team for Call of an Associate Pastor (CR No. C13.10AA26) and Special Congregation Team for Call of an Associate Pastor (CR No. 13.10aA26) (Duties and Responsibilities) See attached.
- Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A. was approved as the firm to perform an audit of the church's financial records.
- The March 2026 distribution from the ELCA Foundation was approved to be apportioned as follows: Seminary Scholarship Fund, 5%; Endowment Salaries Subsidy Fund, 50%; SMELC Endowment Fund, 45%. Motion adopted.
- The revision of 'Building Use – Fee Schedule' was approved.
- Monitoring of the streaming computer at \$25/month be added to the current contract that provides the service for other SMELC computers, was approved.

<u>Operating Fund: February 2026 Final</u>		
	Month	YTD
Revenues:	56,872.34	104,081.60
Expenses:	<u>53,422.48</u>	<u>160,588.80</u>
Income/ (Loss)	3,449.86	(56,507.20)

Grab your hat, slip on your sunnies, and get ready for the journey of a lifetime June 7th - June 12th from 6:00-8:00 pm! At **Epic Australian Adventure VBS**, kids will hop into the heart of the Outback for an unforgettable week of faith, fun, and discovery. Through interactive Bible stories, upbeat worship, hands-on crafts, and exciting games, children will learn powerful truths about God's love, protection, and purpose for their lives. Visit the VBS table in the Narthex for registration / volunteer information!



Please note that there is a \$5.00 registration fee that can be paid through our online giving portal or cash / check. If you wish to use cash, please place it in a green pew envelope and put your name and VBS Registration. If you pay by check please be sure to write VBS Registration in the memo Line.

We are also looking for talented individuals to help us create wonderful set pieces / decorations for the week! If you or anyone you know would like to serve, please contact Ms. Kristine!



A little quiz:

1. Do you listen to other people's problems/concerns/issues?
2. Are you a compassionate person?
3. Do you encourage others through word and actions?
4. Are you a friend?
5. Are you willing to "be there" for others?
6. Do you keep a secret?
7. Do you want to serve God?
8. Do you want to help others at St. Matthew's?
9. Do you visit with and care about others?
10. Do you give some spare time to others?

If you are already doing these kinds of things, then you may want to become a Stephen Minister! Take a good look at yourself to determine if YOU are being prepared/called to work with others and lend a helping hand to others. Stephen Ministry can prepare you with training, advice, feedback, and support. Come join the team! We need good team members like you!

Contact Pastor Sam, Ana Marie Jackson, Terry Miller, Jon Lindsay, or any Stephen Minister to start.



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Christkindlmarkt News

VOLUME 9

April 2026

ISSUE 4

Major bragging rights were awarded to David and Tina Medlin and partner Pr. Kuppler for the most correct trivia answers.



Our smallest player knew the answer to the smallest country.



The three amigos had fun although they didn't win.



Joyce nourished our bodies as we exercised our minds.



Ashley acted as our Master of Ceremonies for the event.





Stop by the Knickknack Nook at the table in the narthex and check out our items for sale. There are some Easter and spring decorations and some small handcrafted gifts. All proceeds will go to Christkindlmarkt to help with our set-up costs.



Are those coins weighing down your purse or pocket? Consider donating them to us. A collection jar will be available on the CKM table.



A Look ahead

Check out the following page for more details on the Rummage sale.

Look for information in the lobby about up-coming craft days. We are always in the market for those special hand-made items made by our talented members.

We hope to have a birthday party to celebrate the 250th birthday of our beloved country closer to the end of June, beginning of July. Calendar availability will determine the actual date.

By popular demand, a new Christkindlmarkt tee-shirt design will be offered over the summer. As done in the past, order sheets will be out in the narthex and delivery will be made around Rally Day.

Gifts to Honor and Remember

In Memory of John Tullous, a gift to the Library Fund by Sondra Tullous.

In Honor of Pr. Samuel Zumwalt, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Fran Perry.

In Honor of Bill Glisson, a gift to the Organ Fund by Fran Perry.



1 Abigail Harrington
2 Brody Crouch
3 Joy Shaver
5 Michael Pope
5 Harrison Rutland
6 Curt Stansbury
7 Alan Richey
7 Kyle Price
8 Leslie Bergbower
8 Adeline Figgs

8 Jacob Cribb
9 Ethan Gains
10 Todd Shaver
11 Britton Jones
12 Randy Mallo
17 Donna Siegmund
19 Kenn Slocum
19 Dale Stansbury
20 Butch Ruefle
21 Janet Hall
23 Jim Morris
24 Dwight Crim
29 Isla Glaeser
29 Jenny Manning



1 Pr. Carl and Joan Voges
2 Robert & Hannah Figgs

5 Charles & Kim Smith
16 Pr. Joel & Judy Kettner
18 Gabriella and Andrew Sharadin
25 Butch & Karen Ruefle
26 Dwight & Jeannette Crim
26 Mike & Mandy Harrington



Congratulations to Brianna Robyn Boyer,
daughter of Ed and Traci Boyer,
on receiving First Communion on
April 5th at the 11:00 service.

Congratulations to Joey and Twesa
Ruby on the birth of their daughter,
Eliana Tukugha, on March 12th.



I want to thank all of my church family of the outpouring of prayers, cards, text messages, and gifts. I was just overwhelmed by the concern for my recovery and getting well. Hope to be back in church soon and ready to start my fellowship activities.

In Christ, Ray and Karen Schmoke



Church Staff Contact Information

Rev. Dr. Samuel Zumwalt, Senior Pastor: szumwalt@stmatthewsch.org;

910-791-4582 ext. 101 or 910-538-6705

Deacon Robert Shivers: robert@shivers.com; 910-791-4582 ext. 102 or 910-619-9668

Rev. Michael Bergbower, Visitation Pastor: mbergbower@charter.net; 910-545-7835

Kristine Regalado, Director of Youth & Family Ministry: dyfm@stmatthewsch.org; 910-791-4582 ext. 110

Donna Capozio, Administrative Assistant: dcapozio@stmatthewsch.org; 910-791-4582 ext. 100

Joan Wazybok, Bookkeeper: finance@stmatthewsch.org; 910-791-4582 ext. 103

Bill Glisson, Director of Music & Organist: musicdirector@stmatthewsch.org; 910-791-4582 ext. 104

Betty Curtis, Choir Director: choirdirector@stmatthewsch.org; 910-791-4582 ext. 104

Teresa Hall, Handbell Director & Children's Music: treehall66@gmail.com



Our Christian sympathy is extended to...

Howard and Lani Beuerman on the death of Howard's brother, Everett Beuerman.

Suzanne Asmus, and family, on the death of Ron Asmus.

Tom Russell, David and Keri Rutland, and family, on the death of Margo Russell.

Tannis Nelson on the death of her husband, Michael Nelson.

MEMBERS

Donna Siegmund	Ed Ludacer	Peggy Davis
Kenn and Wanda Slocum	Sheila Leach	Helen Stansbury
George Schwenzer	Dennis Hall	Pr. Carl Voges
Laura and Micki Matthes	Dwight Crim	Connor Mough
Christine Dingfelder	Todd and Tracy Darnell	Karen Schmoke
Fran Perry	Joe Huppmann	Sandy O'Donnell
Terry Miller	Brigitte Walters	Devon Donaldson
Donna Lawhorn	Alex Schwartz	Alan Hunsberger
Ken and Jenny Manning	Charlotte Thompson	Doris Isaacs
Butch Ruefle	Patty Macino	Erika Braje
Joe Mayfield	Laurie Tobin	Rachel Shaltanis
Betty LaFave	Nancy Westmoreland	Joey, Twesa, and Eliana Ruby
Bev Miller	Howard and Lani Beuerman	Alex Monroe
Don Butzin	Sondra Tullous	Jon Lindsay
Steve Weidman	Tina Medlin	Chris Tennant
Frank and Marti Felter	Beth Jarrott	Elsie Cates
Sally Birnstein	Helen Knoll	Grace Koder

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS

Amie Knauer	Gene Przybranowski	Carol Roberts
David Schwartz	Luke	Penelope Wamboldt
Megan McKinney	Ruth Schucker	Franklin Alvarez
Rev. Dr. William White	Amy Johnston	Michele Watson
Fred Peck	Bonnie Gaspari	Ken Gurganus
Bill Pearson	Vance and Ann Alphin	Rev. Patrick Rooney
Albert Rossetti	Natalie Pressley	Evan Scott
John Jones	Robert Zenz	Janet Kiley
Janet Nix	Virginia Mough	Daniel O'Neill
Scott Howl	Russ Kuhn	Karin Yoshimura
Vic Weidman	Paulette Myers	Tom Howard
Angie Barlow	Lorraine Fritz	Larry Griffin
Matthew Hall	David Pearson	Betty Mowrey
Chuck Teigland	Robert and Janice Hilliard	David Medlin, Sr.
Gretchen Zurich	Fiona Svastics	Levi Fritz
Natalie Merck	Pr. Joe Christina	Shirley Bartholomew
Jeremy McCollum	Jerry Sundberg	Debbie Kosh
Jean Brooks	Bill White	Rafa and Dina Sanabia
Frank Britton	David Searle	Rhonda Melton
Tim Schedler	Luke Corbin	Elizabeth Kincaid
Jill Miller	Judy Constantino	Diane Risberg
Cat Garcia Miller	Emily Smith	Joe Griffin

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Elsie Cates	Ruthann Getsinger	Nancy Miller
Jane Dove	Pat Mahl	Elaine Nelson

Those Serving in April 2026

ALTAR GUILD

April 2 Maundy Thursday

12:00 Cathy Aleksandravicius
7:00

April 4 Easter Vigil

6:00 Beth Hales

April 5 Easter Sunday

8:30 Cathy Aleksandravicius
11:00 Lynette Farmer

April 11-12

6:00 Peggy Davis
8:30 Karen Ruefle
11:00

April 18-19

6:00 Peggy Davis
8:30 Karen Ruefle
11:00 Lynette Farmer

April 25-26

6:00 Beth Hales
8:30 Karen Ruefle
11:00

LECTORS

April 2 Maundy Thursday

12:00 Marti Felter
7:00

April 4 Easter Vigil

6:00 Bev Miller, Alan Richey

April 5 Easter Sunday

8:30 Linda Tennant
11:00 AJ Hemphill

April 11-12

6:00
8:30 Eric Beuerman
11:00 Francis Donaldson

April 18-19

6:00
8:30 Todd Shaver
11:00 Bev Miller

April 25-26

6:00
8:30
11:00 Lynette Farmer

USHERS

April 2 Maundy Thursday

12:00
7:00

April 4 Easter Vigil

6:00

April 5 Easter Sunday

8:30
11:00 Al and Irene Glaeser

April 11-12

6:00
8:30
11:00

April 18-19

6:00
8:30
11:00

April 25-26

6:00
8:30
11:00

ACOLYTES and CRUCIFERS

April 2 Maundy Thursday

12:00
7:00 Irene Glaeser

April 4 Easter Vigil

6:00

April 5 Easter Sunday

8:30 Joey Campos, Irene Glaeser
11:00 Joey Campos, Tom Ullring

April 11-12

6:00
8:30
11:00

April 18-19

6:00
8:30
11:00 Joey Campos

April 25-26

6:00
8:30
11:00

GREETERS

April 2 Maundy Thursday

12:00
7:00

April 3 Good Friday

12:00

7:00

April 4 Easter Vigil

6:00

April 5 Easter Sunday

8:30
11:00 Greg and Donna Adams

April 11-12

6:00
8:30
11:00

April 18-19

6:00
8:30 Cathy Aleksandravicius
11:00

April 25-26

6:00
8:30
11:00 Ana Maria Jackson

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 5

Karen Roberts and Becky Howard
Patty Macino

April 12

Sharon Callender
Pr. Joel and Judy Kettner

April 19

Janet and Denis Hall
Lynette Farmer

April 26

Rebecca Seip
Gina Williams

HOSPICE MEAL

April 3 - Rose Weidman

April 24 - Gina Williams



Investing in our youth is investing in the future of our church.

As our youth program has started to pick back up, we've put together a wish list with items that will help create safe, fun, and faith-building spaces for our students. Thank you for partnering with us through your generosity, prayers, and encouragement.

Here is the link to the Amazon list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2RNJTQS4GY1PT?ref_=wl_share

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Holy Week III 12:00 Eucharist 6:00 Adult Choir	2 Maundy Thurs. 12:00 Eucharist 7:00 Eucharist	3 Good Friday Hospice Meal - Rose Weidman 12:00 Good Friday Worship 7:00 Good Friday Tenebrae	4 Easter Vigil 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt 6:00 Eucharist
<i>*All classes and activities cancelled except those noted on the calendar.</i>						
5 Easter Sunday 6:30 Sunrise Eucharist 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Easter Brunch 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 Prayer Group 5:30 Joyful Noise 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327	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 11:00 Memorial Svc-Joseph Healy 3:00 3rd-5th Gr. Youth 6:00 Eucharist
12 2nd Sunday of Easter 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 Grief Support 12:30 Young Adults 12:30 Stephen Ministry 4:00 MS Youth 6:00 HS Youth	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 5:00 Club W Volleyball 5:30 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 7:00 Midtown AA	17 Salvation Army Lunch/Silent Auction set-up (McSwain)	18 11:00 Salvation Army Luncheon & Silent Auction 6:00 Eucharist
19 3rd Sunday of Easter 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 4:00 MS Youth 6:00 HS Youth	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 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327	22 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	23 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 11:30 OWL's Luncheon 7:00 Midtown AA	24 Hospice Meal - Gina Williams 7:00 Family Fun Night	25 6:00 Eucharist
26 4th Sunday of Easter 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 Young Adults 4:00 MS Youth 6:00 HS Youth Rummage Sale set-up	27 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal Rummage Sale set-up	28 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 5:30 Girl Scouts 354 6:30 Stephen Ministry Rummage Sale set-up	29 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir Rummage Sale set-up	30 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 7:00 Midtown AA Rummage Sale set-up		

Upcoming Worship and Events

May 2 - CKM Rummage Sale, 8:00 am

May 2-3 - Fifth Sunday of Easter, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am and 11:00 am

May 4 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

May 6 - Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

May 7 - National Day of Prayer Service, 12:00 pm

May 9-10 - Sixth Sunday of Easter, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am (Contemporary) and 11:00 am

May 11 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

May 14 - Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord, Eucharist 12:00 pm

May 15-17 - Greek Festival Parking Youth Fundraiser

May 16-17 - Seventh Sunday of Easter, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am and 11:00 am

May 18 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

May 20 - Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

May 23-24 - Feast of Pentecost, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am (Contemporary) and 11:00 am

May 25 - Memorial Day; Church Office closed; Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

May 27 - Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

May 30-31 - Feast of the Holy Trinity, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am and 11:00 am

*Want to give online to St. Matthew's?
Please open the QR code with your phone's camera.*

