

JUNE 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.



High School

Isis Sophia Baldwin, daughter of Ashley Diane Lawson and Brandon William Baldwin, great granddaughter of the late William and Betty Baldwin, and great niece of Christi and David Everette, graduated from American Leadership Academy, Coastal. Her plans are to obtain a North Carolina Life Insurance License and work full time in the industry.

Braelynn Grier Marie Campos, daughter of Danielle Bashaw, and granddaughter of Cheryl Penney, graduated from Penn Foster with honors. Braelynn plans to attend Cape Fear Community College in the fall for her prerequisites and then will complete her education at a university to obtain a degree in criminal justice.

Alexander Rhe Monroe, son of Scott and Christ Monroe, and grandson of Kay Thompson, graduated from Heide Trask High School. He will be attending UNC-Charlotte to pursue a degree in an architecture field.

Sarah Michelle Newbery, daughter of Dave and Renita Newbery, and granddaughter of Liz Newbery and the late David Newbery, graduated with honors from Topsail High School. She graduated with a certification as a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant and plans to attend Cape Fear Community College majoring in Psychology.

Elsie Anne Shaver, daughter of Todd and Melissa Shaver, graduated with honors from Shaver Christian Academy and Cape Fear Community College with an Associate of Arts degree. Elsie will attend UNC-Wilmington in the fall and will study elementary education with an emphasis in language arts.

Clare Francesca Zumwalt, daughter of Pr. Sam and Laura Zumwalt, and goddaughter of Carol Comeskey, graduated Wilmington Early College High School and Cape Fear Community College, with President's Honors, with an Associate in Science degree. She will attend UNCW as a junior biology major, while working part time at a small animal veterinary clinic and volunteering at a local farm helping with horses and donkeys. In the future, she hopes to be admitted to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at North Carolina State University.

College

Casey Aaron Bartholomew, husband of Kristin Regalado Bartholomew, and son of Wendy and Darrin Bartholomew, graduated from Concordia University Texas with a Bachelor's in Religious Education. He will be moving to Wilmington to complete his Director of Christian Education Internship at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and then pursue a full-time position at a church.

Emma Parrish Poole, daughter of Tina Medlin and bonus daughter of David Medlin, graduated from UNC-Charlotte with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications Studies. She plans on becoming a flight attendant.

Robert Alan Shivers, son of Fran Perry and the late Bill Perry, graduated from the Institute of Lutheran Theology Seminary with his Master of Divinity degree. His plan is to serve God as an ordained pastor and servant wherever he is called, to be devoted to the faith, and to teach Christ and Him crucified. Robert gives thanks for the unending support of the congregation, and for their words of wisdom that have been given through his twenty years as a member of St. Matthew's.

Greetings from Pastor Sam

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we begin this non-festival half of the liturgical year known as ordinary time, the Gospel readings teach us what it means to follow our Lord Jesus Christ in lives of limitless humble service unto death. We have already died with Christ in Holy Baptism, so now we are free to give our lives away in love for our neighbors. The Hallmark calendar urges us to remember our fathers on June 21 as summer begins. And those of us who had Christian fathers, however sinful and flawed, are able to recognize their humble service to their families. Those, whose biological fathers were no-shows or worse, can be grateful for those who stepped into the breach on their behalf – grandfathers, godfathers, uncles, and other men.

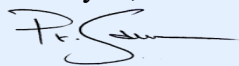
By now, we have voted to call Robert Alan Shivers to be our Associate Pastor. On June 22, he will meet with the Clergy Commission of the American Association of Lutheran Churches, who have read his thirty essays, mostly regarding his defense of the infallible, inspired, inerrant Word of God and of the Lutheran Confessions as accurately confessing what the Scriptures teach. The commission members will ask him searching, in-depth questions not only about his essays but about his faith and life. Upon successfully completion of his colloquy interview, the Clergy Commission will make a recommendation to the Association Council, which is the official board of directors of the AALC, that our deacon be ordained in the AALC. Once all of those steps have been successfully completed, Deacon Robert will be ordained to the holy ministry on Saturday, July 11, at 4 p.m. There will be no 6 p.m. liturgy that day, so that a dinner may be held following the ordination of our new Associate Pastor. The Rev'd. Dr. Cary Larson, Presiding Pastor of the AALC, will be present to preach and to ordain. It will be a beautiful, moving liturgy!

I have watched Robert Alan Shivers grow and mature into a Christian man over the past twenty-one years. The first time I saw him serve as an acolyte both reverently and carefully, I thought the Lord might well be calling 11-year-old Robert to the holy ministry. He had to wrestle with that internal call for many years and to discern to which vocation God was calling him. As with all of us, he had struggles along the way to entering seminary. Having been raised by grandparents, he was often at a very different place emotionally than those raised by younger parents. Those of us who have known Robert since he came at ten to St. Matthew's have watched him grow taller and older as acolyte, then crucifer, then trainer of acolytes, then completing the Memorial Garden walkway and entrance for his Eagle Scout project, then as seminarian and sexton, then vicar, and, finally, deacon. Now, about to celebrate his 31st birthday, he will be Pastor Robert Alan Shivers not only preaching regularly but administering the Sacraments rightly.

I have had three associate pastors over the past forty-five years. Not having come from within the congregation, it took them a long time to learn names and personalities. The best of the three was part-time. Neither of the other two was an appropriate fit for the congregation *or* as my associate. The eighth commandment prevents me from saying more, but I can say that, sadly, I could not trust either of them. Their unexamined internal issues, including basic biblical theology for one, severely impacted their effectiveness as pastors and actually not only created congregational conflict but, sadly, destructively impaired the congregation's life. Hindsight is 20-20. All of which is to say that I believe it will be a blessing that Pastor Robert knows this congregation. He is a fit for our life together. And I trust him!

Please pray for Deacon Robert as he goes through his colloquy interview at 6 p.m. (CDT) on June 22 and pray that we as a congregation and as individual members will do God's good and gracious will.

I love you,



Pastor Samuel David Zumwalt+
szumwalt54@gmail.com

THINK SAFETY

In light of the more frequent attacks on churches and synagogues, you may be more concerned about safety in our building. The council has been discussing improvements to the security system to enhance our protection. One project entails the upgrade to our security cameras to improve monitoring. As with everything else, there is a cost. If you would like to help cover the cost, please make an additional offering to the church and write "Property Any Use" on the memo line. Donations of any size are welcome. Thank you!

The Finance Team



Church Council

For the month of May, Council approved the following:

- The Call Team's recommendation to accept Deacon Robert Shivers as the candidate to be placed before the congregation for a vote as Associate Pastor and call a congregation meeting for 31 May 2026 at 1 pm in the McSwain Activity Center for this purpose.
- The contract from Standard Glass Co. in the amount of \$22,815 (funded by an endowment grant) for installation of ballistic glass in two windows of the nave.
- The not-to-exceed proposal from Keller's Inc. in the amount of \$4,840 to make upgrades to the church's camera system.
- The Continuing Resolutions for Contribution of Record (CR No: C8.02cA26) and the St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Background Check Policy (CR No: C18.01dA26) were amended and approved.
- The amount of \$50 be charged to the operating account (AALC Benevolence line in the budget) to make a \$200 donation to the American Association of Lutheran Churches. An additional \$150 has already been collected and placed into the AALC Restricted account.

<u>Operating Fund: April 2026 Final</u>		
	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Revenues:	52,573.34	220,819.73
Expenses:	<u>50,857.29</u>	<u>270,720.62</u>
Income/ (Loss)	1,716.05	(49,900.89)

Epic Australian Adventure VBS **June 7-12 6-8 PM**

It's not too late to sign up for a fun week of VBS as we head to the heart of the Outback for 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. Please contact Ms. Kristine ASAP to sign up! (dyfm@stmatthewsch.org)



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.



Martin Luther frequently preached to his listeners that we serve God by serving others—helping our neighbors in ways that benefitted them, improved their lives, and helped them get through difficult times in their lives. Stephen Ministers strive to serve others by being the one to whom fellow parishioners can turn. Stephen Ministers serve at St. Matthew's in order to extend a cup of cold water when a drink is needed, when someone needs a confidant, or when a friendly brother or sister can be present for support. Stephen Ministers provide compassionate, skillful, faithful, and trustworthy care. They seek to do what Martin Luther encouraged and advocated: serving God by serving others.

If you want the service a Stephen Minister can give, or if you know someone who needs support, then contact us. We stand ready to be your support in any way we can. Be assured you will be treated with dignity and a completely confidential relationship.

If you are called to serve God by serving others, then come to Stephen Ministry and become a Stephen Minister. Contact Ana Marie Jackson, Terry Miller, Pastor Sam, Jon Lindsay, or any Stephen Minister to start on a faith journey of service. All will benefit from striving to serve at St Matthews'.



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Christkindlmarkt News

VOLUME 9

June 2026

ISSUE 6

Silent Auction Preps are Underway

In spite of a rainy Rummage sale day, many happy faces came in for fabulous finds.

The Rummage sale produced many brand new items that didn't sell. **Gina Vanderwal** gathered some of them up to create **Silent Auction** baskets. If you would like to donate a basket this year, please contact Gina for ideas of what she has that can be used to create a nice themed basket, or to just let her know what you will donate. Her number is **910-200-6747**.



Vendor News

We're off to a great start!!!

The first round of vendor invitations went out May 11th. As of May 14th, 15 outdoor vendors and 18 indoor vendors have submitted their applications. As of May 19th, 17 spaces have been paid for.

Here's what we're hearing
from our 2025 vendors:

- a. This is so exciting!!! I would love to be in the same exact spot I was in last year if it's possible! I had the booth "Sound Side Heirlooms By M&B" can't wait for this years market!!
- b. We are excited to participate for another year thank you for inviting us!
- c. I would absolutely love to join again this year!
- d. I'm looking forward to seeing you again and participating in your wonderful event. And we are SO grateful for this opportunity to sell more baskets to bless women & children in Uganda!
- e. I'm so excited to join the market again this year! I'm very grateful for being so "looked after" and given such blessings.

Friday, June 19th
250th Birthday Party
Happy Birthday U.S.A.!!!
Cost: \$10

Join us for a fun and festive evening as we celebrate this momentous occasion together! Our talented event planners are preparing an enjoyable birthday party for all to share. This special social event and fundraiser for CKM will help support our infrastructure needs. Come at 6 o'clock and enjoy burgers and hotdogs fresh off the grill, along with beans, watermelon, and delicious desserts. Bring your whole family . Invite your friends for an enjoyable evening of food, fellowship, and celebration. You'll be glad you did. **Please sign up** in the narthex so we know how many to prepare for.



Tee-shirt Sale



Orders will be taken in July and early August for **delivery on Rally Day, August 30th**. The design will be our new white logo on a black shirt.

We will offer long and short sleeve shirts in adult sizes small to XX large and youth sizes from X small to X large. As in the past, payment is required with the order. We are using the same local vendor we have in the past.

If you do not wish to order a shirt for yourself, perhaps you will consider purchasing one and donating it back, for sale at Christkindlmarkt. Our local vendor appreciates the business, and so does CKM.

Thank you for your support!

Gifts to Honor and Remember

In Memory of Phyllis Ramal, a gift to the Organ & Piano Maintenance Fund by Jim and Karen Burton.

In Memory of Ron Asmus, a gift to the Organ & Piano Maintenance Fund by Jim and Karen Burton.

In Memory of Ron Salow, a gift to the Building Fund by Joe and Diane Rumsey.

In Memory of Margo Russell, a gift Christkindlmarkt by Walter and Judith Lebda, Tom Russell, Marie Messett Pugh, Carol Roller, Craig and Beth Hales.

In Memory of Dot Springs, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Joe and Diane Rumsey.

In Memory of Alec Chambers, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Sondra Tullous.



2	Grace Koder
3	Pat Mahl
3	Fran Perry
3	Lynette Farmer
3	Diann Brunner
6	Erica Ullring
6	Laurie Tobin
9	June Doll
9	Perry Guy

9	Harry Puckett
12	Nora Rutland
13	Denis Hall
14	Deacon Robert Shivers
16	Robin Willow-Johnson
16	Scott Mough
18	David Rutland
19	Killian Campos
20	John Raia
21	Eden Pope
23	Kris Hall
25	Linda Tennant
25	Johanna Hill
29	Jennifer Linnemann
29	Art Dingfelder



5	Bob and Denise Benoit
6	Karen and Robert Roberts
13	John and Susan Raia
17	Ron and Judi Funke
21	Tony and Tina Occhiuzzo
22	Charlie and Stephanie Macaluso
25	Randy and Sheila Mallo
26	Linda and Rick Krasny
27	Frank and Marti Felter



Our Christian sympathy is extended to...

The family of William "Bill" Becker.

The family of Dot Springs.

Diana Robinson Wilson, and family, at the death of her daughter, Angel Dixon.

MEMBERS

Donna Siegmund	Dwight Crim	Rachel Shaltanis
Kenn and Wanda Slocum	Todd and Tracy Darnell	Alex Monroe
George Schwenzer	Joe Huppmann	Rod Andrew
Laura and Micki Matthes	Brigitte Walters	Grace Koder
Christine Dingfelder	Alex Schwartz	Chris Tennant
Fran Perry	Charlotte Thompson	Elsie Cates
Terry Miller	Laurie Tobin	Jon Lindsay
Donna Lawhorn	Howard and Lani Beuerman	Lou Painter
Ken and Jenny Manning	Sondra Tullous	Ruth Rice
Butch Ruefle	Tina Medlin	Brent Labriola
Joe Mayfield	Beth Jarrott	Sally Birnstein
Betty LaFave	Helen Knoll	Leah Sparks
Bev Miller	Peggy Davis	Patty Macino
Don Butzin	Connor Mough	Dianne Zenz
Steve Weidman	Karen Schmoke	Helen Stansbury
Ed Ludacer	Doris Isaacs	Marti and Frank Felter
Sheila Leach	Erika Braje	
Dennis Hall	Joey, Twesa, and Eliana Ruby	

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS

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

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

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

Those Serving in June 2026

ALTAR GUILD

June 6-7

6:00 Beth Hales
8:30 Cathy Aleksandravicius
11:00

June 13-14

6:00 Peggy Davis
8:30 Cathy Aleksandravicius
11:00

June 20-21

6:00 Beth Hales
8:30 Cathy Aleksandravicius
11:00 Lynette Farmer

June 27-28

6:00 Peggy Davis
8:30 Cathy Aleksandravicius
11:00

LECTORS

June 6-7

6:00
8:30 Linda Tennant
11:00 Lynette Farmer

June 13-14

6:00
8:30 Sheila Whitmeyer
11:00 Bev Miller

June 20-21

6:00
8:30
11:00 Francis Donaldson

June 27-28

6:00
8:30 Eric Beuerman
11:00 AJ Hemphill

USHERS

June 6-7

6:00
8:30
11:00

June 13-14

6:00
8:30
11:00

June 20-21

6:00
8:30
11:00

June 27-28

6:00
8:30
11:00

ACOLYTES and CRUCIFERS

June 6-7

6:00
8:30
11:00

June 13-14

6:00
8:30
11:00

June 20-21

6:00
8:30
11:00

June 27-28

6:00
8:30
11:00

GREETERS

June 6-7

6:00
8:30 Janet Hall
11:00 Greg and Donna Adams

June 13-14

6:00
8:30
11:00

June 20-21

6:00
8:30 Cathy Aleksandravicius
11:00

June 27-28

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

June 7

The Loftus and Magnus families
Lynette Farmer

June 14

Fran Perry
Dusty Pilcher

June 21

Rebecca Seip
Sharon Callander

June 28

Alan Richey
Patty Macino

HOSPICE MEAL

June 5 - Mandy Harrington

June 26 - The Cribb family



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

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



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 2:00 Memorial Svc. - Dot Springs 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal VBS Set-up	2 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 VBS Set-up	3 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 11:00 Finance Team 12:00 Healing Svc. VBS Set-up	4 10:00 Quilt Ministry 6:30 Council 7:00 Midtown AA VBS Set-up	5 Hospice Meal - Mandy Harrington VBS Set-up	6 10:00 VBS Workday 6:00 Eucharist
7 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Graduate Sunday 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Graduate Reception 11:00 Eucharist 1:00 VBS Workday 6:00 VBS	8 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 VBS	9 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 5:30 Joyful Noise 6:00 VBS	10 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Svc. 6:00 VBS	11 10:00 Quilt Ministry 6:00 VBS	12 6:00 VBS Closing	13 10:00 Praise & Play (0-5yrs) 6:00 Eucharist
14 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day 8:30 Eucharist (C) 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 Grief Support	15 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	16 10:00 Prayer Group 5:00 Club W Volleyball 6:30 Stephen Ministry	17 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Svc.	18 10:00 Quilt Ministry 5:00 Club W Volleyball 7:00 Midtown AA	19 6:00 CKM 250th Birthday Social	20 3:00 3rd-5th Gr. Youth 6:00 Eucharist
21 4th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist 11:00 Eucharist	22 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	23 10:00 Prayer Group	24 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Healing Svc.	25 10:00 Quilt Ministry 7:00 Midtown AA	26 Hospice Meal - Cribb family 7:00 Family Fun Night	27 6:00 Eucharist
28 5th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 Eucharist (C) 11:00 Eucharist	29 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	30 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group Youth Trip - Higher Things Conference				

Upcoming Worship and Events

July 1 - Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

July 3 - Church Office closed in observance of Independence Day.

July 4-5 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am and 11:00 am;

July 6 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

July 8 - Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

July 11 - Ordination Service, 4:00 pm

July 12 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Eucharists 8:30 am (Contemporary) and 11:00 am

July 13 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

July 15 - Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

July 18-19 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am and 11:00 am

July 20 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

July 22 - Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

July 25-26 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Eucharists 6:00 pm, 8:30 am (Contemporary) and 11:00 am

July 27 - Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

July 29 - Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm