

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 22, 2026

6:00 PM



“On this rock I will build
My church, and the gates of Hades
shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:18

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

WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the American Association of Lutheran Churches (taalc.org)

We welcome all who worship with us today. We gather as the Body of Christ to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise to God. Ushers are available to answer any of your questions. The church is equipped with a hearing impaired system. If you need a listening device, it may be obtained from an usher. In the minutes prior to the beginning of each service, the doors to the nave are closed, and quiet is encouraged. Music is offered which prepares worshipers to receive God's gifts from His Hand – the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Celebrating Holy Communion: We believe, teach, and confess the Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the earthly elements of bread and wine. We refer to this as the sacramental union. All baptized Christians, who share this belief, are invited to receive Jesus as He comes in the Holy Communion to forgive the sins of the penitent. Children and others who are not yet receiving the sacrament or are unable to commune with us are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this.

Ushers will direct communicants to the altar where you may kneel or stand. Please receive the host in your flattened palm. The ceramic cup is for intinction, in which you dip the host. Unless otherwise announced, the metal cup is the common cup from which you drink after having consumed the host. If you cannot receive alcohol, please touch the host to the outside of the chalice. If you need a gluten free host, please ask the pastor when he approaches you. Once you have communed, please return to your seat. If you need to be communed at your seat, please inform an usher. The pastor will come to you.

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God and given by Rebecca Seip in honor of her son, Matthew Seip, on his birthday, and by Jim and Sheila Whitmeyer in honor of Sheila's sister, Mitzi Viola, on her birthday.

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS! On this Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Associate Pastor Robert Alan Shivers preaches "Faith as the Foundation" (Matthew 16:13-20). Last Sunday, we heard a Canaanite woman confess Jesus as "Son of David," the forever Messiah promised to King David (2 Samuel 7:12-14). Today, Simon Peter makes a similar but even greater confession, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matthew 16:16). Will you confess Jesus as the King of kings and Lord of lords with all that you have and are? What will such faith look like in your daily life, relationships, and work?

I will strive to ... **Pray daily**

Worship weekly

Read the Bible

Serve at and beyond St. Matthew's

Be in Relationship to encourage spiritual growth in others

Give of God's time, talents and resources

Those Serving in Worship

Greeter:

Lector:

Acolytes and Crucifers:

Ushers: Dave and Diane Sundberg **Altar Guild:** Peggy Davis



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(* Please stand as you are able.)

Silence for Meditation

THE PRELUDE

In Thee Is Gladness

setting Karen E. Black

TEMPLE TALK

Evangelism

Dave Sundberg

THE WELCOME

* THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Congregation: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

Congregation: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

Congregation: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

* THE OPENING HYMN

In Thee is Gladness

(page 12)

* THE GREETING

2 Corinthians 13:14

Pastor: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

* THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Care for your Church, O Lord, with perpetual mercy. Since we totter and are sure to fall without your grace, remove what will harm us and arrange what will make us whole. Through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 51:1-6

“Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him.” ³ For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the LORD; Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody. ⁴ “Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest As a light of the peoples. ⁵ My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me, And on My arm they will trust. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 138

I will praise You with my whole heart;
Before the gods I will sing praises to You.
**I will worship toward Your holy temple,
And praise Your name
For Your lovingkindness and Your truth;
For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.**
In the day when I cried out, You answered me,
And made me bold with strength in my soul.
**All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD,
When they hear the words of Your mouth.**
Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
For great is the glory of the LORD.
**Though the LORD is on high,
Yet He regards the lowly;
But the proud He knows from afar.**
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me;
You will stretch out Your hand
Against the wrath of my enemies,
And Your right hand will save me.
**The LORD will perfect that which concerns me;
Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever;
Do not forsake the works of Your hands.**
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 11:33-12:8

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?”
³⁵ “Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?” ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. **12** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. ³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*** THE VERSE**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

John 6:68

*** THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Pastor: The HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” ¹⁴ So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

“Holy Worship: Who Do You Say He Is?”

Pr. Shivers

*** THE HYMN OF THE DAY**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

LBW 293



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
2 Whendark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

*** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*** THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Assisting Minister: Lord, in your mercy.

Congregation: Hear our prayers.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation: And also with you.

THE OFFERING

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

*** THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*** THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Father in heaven,

Congregation: you fatten nature for its winter fast which shows the folly of our fear as we work for daily bread. Accept these offerings made in hope and lead us to glory in your faithful care. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

Congregation: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed....

*** THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Pastor: We give you thanks...both now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*** THE DISTRIBUTION (*An usher will direct you to the altar rail.*)**

John 1:29

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. Amen

*** THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: In your Sacrament, O Lord, you have cleansed and strengthened us by your all sufficient grace. Come with us now, help us with our work, and lead us to salvation. We bless you now and evermore.

Congregation: Amen.

Congregation: I will strive to pray daily, worship weekly, read the Bible, serve at and beyond St. Matthew's, be in relationship to encourage spiritual growth in others, and give of God's time, talents, and resources.

*** THE BENEDICTION**

Matthew 28:19

Pastor: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

*** THE CLOSING HYMN**

Onward, Christian Soldiers

(At this time anyone desiring prayer for healing is invited to approach the altar rail.)



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,
2 Like a might - y ar - my Moves the Church of God;
3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, King - doms rise and wane,
4 On - ward, then, ye faith - ful, Join our hap - py throng,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.
Broth - ers, we are tread - ing Where the saints have trod.
But the Church of Je - sus Con - stant will re - main.
Blend with ours your voic - es In the tri - umph song:



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, Leads a - gainst the foe;
We are not di - vid - ed, All one bod - y we,
Gates of hell can nev - er 'Gainst that Church pre - vail;
Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or Un - to Christ, the king;



For - ward in - to bat - tle See His ban - ners go!
One in hope and doc - trine, One in char - i - ty.
We have Christ's own prom - ise, And that can - not fail.
This through count - less a - ges Men and an - gels sing.



Refrain
On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.

Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.

Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958

*** THE DISMISSAL**

Assisting Minister: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

St. Gertrude

Mark Rippe

LESSONS for NEXT WEEK:

Revelation 6:9-11; Psalm 116:12-19; Romans 6:1-5; Mark 6:142-9

Holy Worship: Faith as the Foundation

Praying

“Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen” (*Sacred Hours: The Lutheran Daily Office*, 116).

Listening

Matthew 16:13 “...Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

St. Theodore of Heraclea (early 4th century Christian Roman general martyred for the faith): “Jesus asks this in order that we might know what opinions about him were current among the Jews...so that we might learn to inquire intently into what people are saying about him, and if it is bad, to remove the causes, or if complimentary, to increase them. But he said ‘Son of Man’ in order to show that he himself not only appears to be but in fact unchangeably is man, and again, is true God” (*Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 14-28*, 43-44).

Matthew 16:15 “But who do you say that I am?”

St. John Chrysostom (late 4th – early 5th century Patriarch of Constantinople): “He was calling them on by his second inquiry to entertain some higher mental picture, indicating that their former judgment falls exceedingly short of his dignity. Thus Jesus probes for another judgment from them. He poses this second question that they might not fall in with the multitude who, because they saw his miracles as greater than human, accounted him a man indeed but one that, as Herod had thought, may have appeared after a resurrection” (45).

Matthew 16:18 “...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Theodore of Mopsuestia (Late 4th – early 5th century Antiochian bishop in present day Turkey): “This means he will build his church upon this same confession and faith...It was from this confession, which was going to become the common property of all believers, that he bestowed upon him this name, the rock. In the same way also Jesus attributes to him the special character of the church...” (45-46).

Matthew 16:19 “...whatever you bind on earth ...whatever you loose... shall be loosed in heaven.”

Epiphanius the Latin (Late 5th – early 6th century Bishop, of either Benevento or Seville): “For Christ is a rock which is never disturbed or worn away...The devil is the gateway of death who always hastens to stir up against the holy church calamities and temptations and persecutions. But the faith of the apostle, which was founded upon the rock of Christ, abides always unconquered and unshaken. And the very keys of the kingdom of the heavens have been handed down so that one whom he has bound on earth has been bound in heaven, and one whom he has set free on earth he has also set free in heaven” (46).

Reflecting

1. Will I confess Christ as the only Savior of the world not only with my lips but my life?

Learning

How Christians should be taught to confess [From Martin Luther's Small Catechism]

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

Doing

1. Pray for every unbaptized child and adult you know and for the child's parents, too.
2. Pray for your unchurched loved ones and friends. Invite one or more of them to worship.
3. Discuss with your spouse, your family, or a friend the difficulty of, living your calling as child of God especially when you are dealing with difficult people in daily life and a culture hostile to God. How might you and those you love (especially children and youth) find greater support for life's challenges in both regular worship and in spiritual friendships at church this week?
4. Read this quote daily and try to do what it says: "Half an hour's meditation each day is essential, except when you are busy. Then a full hour is needed." St. Francis de Sales

For Husbands and Wives

Repeat daily: "I (name) take you (name) to be my wedded wife (husband), to have and to hold from this day forward; for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish until death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my faith."

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

The family of Daniel O'Neill, Steve and Pat Manor, Judy Daniels, Mary Pat Jones, Barbara Ulnik, Connie Forler, Michael, Donna Adams, Elyssia Eubanks, Ed Ludacer, Brigitte Walters, Marti Felter, Christi Everette, Carol Stacherski, Erika Braje, Dianne Zenz, Sondra Tullous

MEMBERS

Donna Siegmund	Denis and Janet Hall	Chris Tennant
Kenn and Wanda Slocum	Dwight Crim	Lou and Jenny Painter
George Schwenzer	Todd and Tracy Darnell	Ruth Rice
Laura and Micki Matthes	Joe Huppmann	Sally Birnstein
Christine Dingfelder	Alex Schwartz	Frank Felter
Fran Perry	Laurie Tobin	Helen Knoll
Terry Miller	Howard and Lani Beuerman	Helen Stansbury
Donna Lawhorn	Tina Medlin	Karen Schmoke
Ken and Jenny Manning	Beth Jarrott	Leah Sparks
Butch Ruefle	Doris Isaacs	Mike Burns
Joe Mayfield	Rachel Shaltanis	Brad Cook
Betty LaFave	Alex Monroe	Bev Miller
Steve Weidman	Rod Andrew	Patty Macino
Sheila Leach	Grace Koder	

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS

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

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Don Butzin	Ruthann Getsinger	Nancy Miller
Jane Dove	Pat Mahl	Elaine Nelson

<u>Operating Fund: July 2026 FINAL</u>		
	Month	YTD
Revenues:	51,057.95	358,152.19
Expenses:	<u>61,546.97</u>	<u>425,415.56</u>
Income/ (Loss)	(10,489.02)	(67,263.37)

<u>Operating Fund for August 2026</u>	
Avg. Monthly	
Anticipated expenses:	75,350.00
Received for the month:	<u>21,573.99</u>
Additional needed:	53,776.01

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



Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday - Eucharist, 6 p.m. Sunday - Traditional Eucharist. 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
2nd and 4th Sundays - Contemporary Eucharist, 8:30 a.m. Monday - Evening Prayer and Bible Study, 6 p.m.
Wednesday - Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 p.m.

A nursery is provided for all Sunday Services and during the Sunday School hour.

First Time Visitors - Please stop by our **Welcome Center** to sign our guest book and get information about St. Matthew's.

Changing stations are available in the two restrooms across from the church offices and in the nursery.

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday, August 23 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 Contemporary Eucharist

11:00 Traditional Eucharist

Monday, August 24

On call - Pr. Shivers (Aug. 24-30)

9:00 Counting Team - Finance Office

12:00 Conversations - Rm. 117

6:00 Evening Prayer

7:00 Midtown AA

7:00 Harbour Towne Band

Tuesday, August 25

10:00 Staff Meeting

10:00 Prayer Group - Rm. 117

Wednesday, August 26

8:30 Men's Bible Study - McCombs

12:00 Healing Prayer and Eucharist

6:00 Handbells

7:00 Adult Choir

Thursday, August 27

10:00 Quilt Ministry - Rm. 117

7:00 Midtown AA - McCombs

Friday, August 28

Hospice Meal - Gina Martuscelli Vanderwal

7:00 Family Fun Night

Saturday, August 29 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

6:00 Eucharist

Sunday, August 30 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 Contemporary Eucharist

11:00 Traditional Eucharist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harbor Kids (3rd–5th graders) will kick off the year with a day at the Trampoline Park on Saturday, September 19th, from 3-5 p.m. See details and sign up in the Narthex by **August 23rd** to reserve your spot. **Parents** are needed as chaperones. Your support helps create a safe and fun experience for everyone!

Rally Day is Sunday, August 30th. Be sure to sign up for the Rally Day Potluck Lunch at 12:30 p.m. in McSwain Center. The Fellowship Team will provide drinks, plates, utensils, and napkins. Sign up in the Narthex to bring enough food for your household to share with other households. We will have a bouncy slide and games for all ages.

Stephen Ministry is inviting the congregation and community at large to attend a seminar on Sunday, September 20th at 12:30 p.m. The topic is "Identifying and Dealing Dementia in Loved Ones", presented by John Dawson from Trillium Health Resources. If you are concerned about a parent, spouse, sibling, or friend whose degree of forgetfulness seems to be more intensified than usual, we encourage you to attend. A light lunch will be provided. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Faith Circle is inviting the congregation to their meeting on Tuesday, September 8th at 10:00 a.m. Guest speaker, George Elam, will have a presentation on Eden Village, a tiny village here in Wilmington supporting the disabled and chronically homeless. Please sign up in the Narthex so we know how many to prepare for.

Training for Stephen Ministry will begin in September. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or have questions, please contact one of our leaders: Ana María Jackson 910-599-5622, Jon Lindsay 770-356-5093, Terry Miller 910-619-3742, Pastor Sam Zumwalt 910-538-6705.

Christkindlmarkt is our annual event for the benefit of all ministries of our church. Please support our efforts by being a Sponsor. Our goal for 2026 is \$18,000 to cover expenses. There are several levels to choose from and forms are available in the narthex.

Erika Braje is in need of a weekly ride to the 11:00 a.m. service. Please see the directory for her contact information or email the church office.

HELP! St. Matthew's is in desperate need of a servant to be the Team Leader of the Church Property Team. This team is responsible for the maintenance and protection of all property of the congregation. Currently there is a small group of individuals that perform various functions related to property maintenance, but a leader is needed to conduct team meetings, organize required work and provide guidance to the team members. Also, the Team Leader is required to report monthly to the church council, through the council liaison, the accomplishments and needs of the team. If you feel a call to serve this important function, please contact Dusty Pilcher by email at dustman343@mail.com, call 717-542-1818, or speak to him at church to further discuss your interest.



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church
910-791-4582 ♦
The Rev. Dr. Samuel D. Zumwalt

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