

# St. Matthew Newsletter

*Our Vision:* Connecting the world with Jesus Christ

*Our Mission:* Faithfully living as the Body of Christ, and sharing the Gospel that brings salvation

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## ❖ Pastor's Message

*Rev. Craig Otto*

In my regular prayers for you, I pray for faithfulness.

*Lord Jesus, hear us. Bless each of us in Your flock, that we might have ears to hear and open hearts to receive You. Day after day we are set back by suffering and change, even temptations and spiritual harm brought on by the evil one.*

*Yet we pray to remain faithful, like Peter and Mary and John and all those who saw You face to face. Lord Jesus, You speak of good for us, even when Your words correct us and warn us. Grant me words to speak of Your grace—with fear, reverence, truth, and gentleness—that all who are Yours might repent and find their righteousness in You.*

*Help everyone who is suffering, ill, tired, disillusioned. Help those who pray, hearing their unspoken prayers when they know all their efforts can't change what is hurting them most. Lord Jesus, restore those who come, show mercy to those who kneel and ask.*

*You have not left us alone, and this is the great mystery that You abide in us. We are never alone for Your Spirit is in us, as You have said. We are washed and new. It's Your voice we hear saying our sins are forgiven, and we believe. We trust You do what You say, and it gives us hope that all is not lost... that the day remains good.*

*Your presence gives us courage to know that nothing has been in vain, and that nothing is lost, for You take all things and use them for good, for us, for Your Church, for our eternity together. So we keep on praying for faithfulness, to trust You with today.*

We are spiritual, body and soul, and need to nourish our spiritual life. Jesus says we must eat *the bread that God gives*, because eating earthly food alone does not lead to eternal life. What helps us remain faithful is gathering to hear His Word, receive Him in the Lord's Supper, and offering ourselves.

Come and eat the bread of life.

*Yours in Christ, Pastor Otto*



## ❖ Meeting Announcement from the Board of Elders

A Special Voters Meeting is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 22, for the purpose of voting on a recommendation to extend a call for the Director of Family Life position. Sixteen candidates from an LCMS national data base were considered for the Director of Family Life position, from which only Charity Smith and Sara Shadday were willing to consider a call. Of these two candidates, the Call Committee believes Charity Smith is the most qualified for the Director of Family Life position.

The Call Committee will recommend extending a call to Charity Smith at the March 22, 2020, Special Voters Meeting. A minimum of 77 communicant members over the age of 18 is required to meet quorum requirements for the Special Voters Meeting. We encourage your attendance as our congregation votes on this important step in extending a call for the Family Life Director position.

❖ Altar Guild

The Altar Guild members will meet on Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m. in the Library. We will discuss the Maundy Thursday practice dates and finalize the schedule for Holy Week.

❖ Classics Gathering

Thanks to all who brought the delicious food to our February Classics. The Bingo games rolled on with everyone winning at least one prize. The Grand Prizes went to Shirley Mattis and Phyllis Schramm. Congratulations to all for a fine event.

Be sure to come to our March Classics. We have a special guest speaker, News Anchor Loren Halifax from Fox 4 News. It should be interesting to hear about news in the Kansas City area. Our Menu is Pot Luck. So please bring a favorite dish, side dish, dessert or beverage to share. That will be Thursday, March 5 at 11:30 a.m. here in the Family Life Center.

❖ LWML Women in Mission

**Our Redeemer Speaker and Church Breakfast: Sunday, March 15, 9:30 a.m.**

Mark your calendars! Congregational President, John Anheier, of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kansas City, will speak during the Sunday School hour (9:30 -10:30 AM) about their ongoing ministry. This church proclaims Jesus Christ in their neighborhood and serves the physical needs of their community with clothing donations and utilities assistance during the winter and a year-round food bank. A breakfast will be served on the 15<sup>th</sup> with free-will offering to benefit Our Redeemer. Watch church bulletins for breakfast menu and serving times.

**Missouri District Convention: June 12-14, Springfield, MO at University Plaza Hotel**

The theme of the convention, *2020 Faith Vision*, is based on 2 Corinthians 5:7, “Walk by Faith—Not by Sight.” Convention registration instructions and forms are currently available on the website [www.missourilwml.org](http://www.missourilwml.org) and the hotel is now taking room reservations.

❖ LWML Mites Mission Grant

Detroit has experienced economic disaster with nearly 60 percent of its children living in poverty, the highest rate in the country. Camp Restore Detroit provides a place for children and adults of the city’s devastated Ninth Precinct to learn about God’s love as they participate in art, theatre, music classes, and receive homework help. Adults are offered parenting, finance, and resumé-building classes. Remember Detroit by bringing your mites for this LWML grant!

❖ Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Elaine Froeschle will serve as hostess and give the devotion. If you are interested in joining our group, please come to our meeting or call Christy Chambers at 816-560-7065.

❖ St. Matthew Prayer Partners

**Do you have a prayer request? Are you interested in being on our e-mail list notifying you of prayers of the congregation? Contact Carrol McAllister at [cammac2@swbell.net](mailto:cammac2@swbell.net) or 816-763-4535.**

❖ Former Member Frank Hess

Some of you remember Frank and Connie Hess during their time as members of St. Matthew. Frank died in October of 2019 of ALS, and his wife wanted to let St. Matthew members know. Frank’s obituary is found at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/castle-rock-co/christian-hess-8875547>, and it is also on the church bulletin board. Connie Hess’s contact information is: 8128 Sunset Place, Elizabeth, CO 80107. If anyone wants Connie’s phone number, you may contact Linda Steffens.

## ❖ Church Security Changes

To improve security, the on-duty Elders are now locking all exterior doors to the church fifteen minutes following the start of a worship service. Should you arrive late to a worship service and find the doors locked, just push the “Call Button” located on the left side of the Narthex exterior doors and the on-duty Elder will unlock the door for you. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we seek to improve church security.

## ❖ *Learning Garden* at St. Matthew, sponsored by Rotary & Pro Deo

St. Matthew is considering a new way to interact with our community. We have an opportunity to place a small greenhouse on our property behind the Family Life Center parking lot, where youth from the Pro Deo Youth Center can learn gardening skills.

The Pro Deo Youth Center (*pro deo = for God*) was founded ten years ago by a Lee’s Summit Police Officer and his wife with a vision of a ministry to serve “at risk” youth with a place to gather after school and receive a variety of services. The organization is now led by Dr. Elaine Metcalf, a retired administrator in the Lee’s Summit R-VII school District.

The Board of Directors of St. Matthew has agreed to permit the Pro Deo Youth Center and three Lee’s Summit Rotary Clubs to use an area behind the Family Life Center to create a learning garden. The purpose of the garden is to provide an opportunity for teens served by Pro Deo to seed, tend, and harvest produce. It is part of Pro Deo’s mission to provide a youth program emphasizing leadership and job skills for teenagers.

The project is being funded by a \$23,000 grant from Rotary International District 6040 and matched in part by: Rotary Club of Lee’s Summit, the Lee’s Summit Downtown Rotary Club, and Lee’s Summit Sunrise Rotary Club. The garden will consist of an 11’ by 20’ greenhouse structure and sixteen 4’ by 8’ raised planter beds in an area approximately 70’ by 35’. This will be in the area north of the Family Life Center parking lot. The use of the area is to be governed by a license agreement that our St. Matthew Board of Directors has reviewed, and is expected to approve at its March meeting.

## ❖ Sewing Group

The St. Matthew Sewing Group will meet on March 2nd and 9th at 12:30 p.m. in the new kitchen area of the Family Life Center. **We are in need of new members to help with our many projects this year.** You don't need to know how to sew — we also need cutters, stuffers, etc. If you would rather work from your home, we can provide kits for you to take with you. The group meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month. If interested, please contact Linda Patterson at 816-820-4464 (lfatters@gmail.com) or Marilyn Heineman at 524-2369.

## ❖ Food Pantry Collection

The Mission Board continues to collect items for the food pantry at Lee’s Summit North High School. Any contribution, monetary gift, or gift card is greatly appreciated. **A copy of the food list and a display of food items are located in the Narthex**, including: canned corn/peas/green beans, canned beans, canned fruit or applesauce, pasta sauce (plastic jars or cans), Pasta, canned chicken or tuna, tuna/chicken helper, pancake mix (small package), syrup, instant oatmeal (individual packages), Pop Tarts, individual cereal boxes, granola or protein bars, soup, mac-n-cheese, peanut butter, jelly.

## ❖ Church Worker Study Grants

LWML MO District church workers study grant applications are now available on-line at [www.missourilwml.org](http://www.missourilwml.org) (under “Forms/Scholarships & Grants”). The deadline for complete application is April 15, 2020. Contact the Study Grant Chairman, Edie Turner, at [lwmlmostudygrant@yahoo.com](mailto:lwmlmostudygrant@yahoo.com) or call her at 314-846-4870 for further information.

## Director of Family Life

Ministry Description – June 12, 2019

### Purpose

- To nurture Christian faith among children, youth, and families.
- To encourage a home-centered, church-supported model of instruction that views the home as a primary place for lasting faith formation and influence.
- To encourage all members to grow in Christian maturity through the entire life cycle.
- To encourage involvement in service and fellowship activities which build up the Body of Christ and serve our neighbors.

### Primary Duties

*The Director of Family Life is a new position at St. Matthew. The four duties listed below address known needs of our congregation. Items listed under each duty are descriptions of current activities which may change over time. This ministry description may be adapted by the Board of Elders based on the unique gifts of the person who is called to serve at St. Matthew.*

**1. Equip parents to teach the Christian faith at home, encouraging their spiritual growth and enabling them to pass on the faith to their children. (Home-centered)**

- Develop and use an annual pattern of instruction to help parents know and teach the Lutheran Christian faith to their children (e.g. our Faith Milestones model).
- Teach families to use the Bible, catechism, hymnal, and other resources as they establish routine worship and devotional practices.
- Create opportunities for parents to gather and find support from one another.

**2. Coordinate teaching of the Christian faith in the congregation, primarily for young people from birth through high school. (Church-supported)**

- In cooperation with Pastors, create and maintain regular opportunities in which God's Word is taught to the congregation's current and visiting families. An annual Christian education plan is a helpful tool for members and staff.
- Supervise Sunday school, Wednesday midweek classes, and Vacation Bible School. This includes purchase of curriculum, communication with teachers and parents, and inviting members and visitors to participate.
- Recruit teachers and leaders for Sunday school, Midweek, and other youth gatherings, and equip them for their roles.
- Provide or create resources to help married and engaged couples establish patterns for a Christ-centered marriage.
- Teach classes or lead devotions for adults when appropriate.

**3. Lead youth ministry in the congregation, creating settings for fellowship, service, and spiritual life.**

Lead fellowship events for children and youth, including parents in the planning and supervision of activities.

Lead/coordinate Bible studies and topical discussions for junior and senior youth.

Provide spiritual nurture to junior and senior youth, helping them cultivate a mature understanding of beliefs, and teaching them how to live a sanctified life in Christ.

Communicate with parents, students, and the congregation using appropriate media, encouraging regular patterns of attending worship services and youth activities.

**4. Coordinate fellowship and service opportunities of the congregation.**

Encourage members and visitors to engage in community service and mission efforts, partnering with groups (LWML, Mission Committee, etc.) that initiate these.

Serve as a resource to the Board of Directors by recommending and planning fellowship and service events with lay members.

Develop and use a regular resource to identify interests and talents in the congregation to help our members use their gifts to glorify God and serve their neighbors.

**Qualifications:**

Committed to the Old and New Testament Scriptures as the Word of God, with a proper understanding of Law and Gospel.

Committed to the Book of Concord (1580) as a correct exhibition of the Christian faith, and willing to abide by the doctrine and practices of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Active member of the The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, with a living faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Demonstrate moral integrity, humility, and devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bachelors or Masters level degree in a family life program from an LCMS Concordia University (preferably with an emphasis in youth ministry), or a Director of Christian Education with family life training emphasis.

Experience in a team ministry setting.

Working knowledge of parish education and youth ministry.

Proven ability to relate well and build relationships with youth and parents.

**Reporting relationship**

The congregation extends divine calls to ordained and commissioned ministers in accord with our Constitution.

The Senior Pastor oversees Word and Sacrament ministry at St. Matthew and participates in annual evaluations, ministry planning, and alignment of duties among the staff. The Director of Family Life reports directly to the Senior Pastor.

The Board of Elders oversees matters related to the effective fulfillment of duties and the doctrinal content of teaching.

The Board of Directors oversees personnel matters and employee benefits.

# St. Matthew



Lutheran Church  
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Lee's Summit, MO 64063  
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## Announcement:

A Special Voter's Meeting  
will be held Sunday, Mar. 22  
at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose  
of extending a call for a  
Director of Family Life.

*We need a quorum of at least  
77 people to conduct business.*

*See the Ministry Description  
inside this newsletter.*

## MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

### ❖ Come and Worship — *Wednesdays in Lent at 4:00 and 7:30 p.m.*

We invite you to attend midweek worship services on the theme, "Living among the Bible's Trees."

#### **Wednesday Services**

Wed., Feb. 26	The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil	4:00 & 7:30 p.m.
Wed., Mar. 4	The Great Trees of Mamre near the Machpelah	4:00 & 7:30 p.m.
Wed., Mar. 11	The Oak at Ophrah	4:00 & 7:30 p.m.
Wed., Mar. 18	The Tree of Jesse	4:00 & 7:30 p.m.
Wed., Mar. 25	The Tree of the Lord's Planting	4:00 & 7:30 p.m.
Wed., Apr. 1	Good Trees Good Fruit, Bad Trees Bad Fruit	4:00 & 7:30 p.m.

#### **Holy Week Services**

Thurs., Apr. 9	The Fig Trees	Maundy Thursday	7:00 p.m. only
Fri., Apr. 10	The Tree of the Cross	Good Friday	12:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Sun., Apr. 12	The Tree of Life	Easter Sunday	7:30 & 10:45 a.m.

### ❖ Sunday, March 8 - *Guest Speaker in 9:30 Bible Class, Art Lesson at 1:00 p.m.*

We welcome Lutheran liturgical artist, Kelly Schumacher, to our **Sunday Bible Class** on March 8 at 9:30, for children, youth, and adults. She and her parents, members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Des Peres, MO, will be here. Kelly will speak about Christian art and show how her paintings illustrate the six chief parts of the small catechism, discussing themes of marriage, vocation of parents, children, sanctity of human life, and family. We invite everyone to stay for a **pizza & salad lunch** at noon, then Kelly will lead us in a **watercolor painting exercise for all ages** at 1:00, using paint, colored pencils, crayons, glue, etc. Kelly is a 2013 MFA Graduate from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. She is the founder of Agnus Dei Liturgical Arts, and her website is [agnusdeiarts.com](http://agnusdeiarts.com).