

# 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 D. Otto*

### The Prayerful Christian Nurture of Children and Youth

Dear Saints in the Lord,

As I write this we've had two days of steady, soaking rain in Lee's Summit. It's not uncommon for us to pray "for seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth." What keeps us going—food and water—comes from God who provides our daily bread.

The month of August in suburban America means preparing to start the new school year. We pray for children in preschool, home school, grade school, middle school, high school, and universities. School settings can be places of friendship, learning, and cooperation when things are going well, but the same settings can become stressful. Remember to pray for teachers, students, and parents.

Our congregation at St. Matthew has called a new staff person to walk alongside our moms and dads, our young children and our youth. You have an opportunity before you... *I pray you won't miss it.* We now have a full-time Director of Family Life whose sole purpose is to nurture your family's spiritual growth. When Milestones are offered, why not say, "Yes, this can be good for me and my daughter." When Deaconess plans high school Bible studies, why not answer an email or phone call and have a conversation so your son can find a way to take part.

What is at stake? Salvation for one thing. While children are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit, joined to the Savior Jesus, that is just the beginning of knowing Him. Children, youth, and adults need—in each season of life—to abide in Christ's forgiveness and learn the grace of thankfulness. We know less about Scripture than we should, so we accept opportunities to let God's Word shape us. To say of our children, "Aw, they'll figure it out" is to underestimate the powerful social narratives they live in, digitally and among their peers. Let's be in worship together as families.

We took two youth trips this summer where students gathered with fellow Lutheran students from across the country. Were they worth the effort? Do they accomplish anything lasting? The Youth Gathering (held every three years) and Higher Things conferences (held annually) are, in the big picture, places that help LCMS youth see the significance of Christ in their lives.... *now and for adult life.*

A youth conference is one experience among many that shape a person. We spend time together traveling, waiting, and having meaningful conversations over the week. Youth and adults sit together in Bible study, topical talks, and worship settings, seeing ourselves as followers of Jesus. We then discuss how living for Christ plays out in *our* home and among *our* friends. Pray for our youth, asking the Lord to bless and guide them always.

I see many positive expressions of care in our congregation! I see parents helping their children learn worship skills (using hymnals, saying prayers). I see members of all ages striking up conversation with middle school and high school kids. I see people walking up to families with a baby and giving thanks for their presence. I hear people tell me whom they are praying for and I'm amazed and humbled by their commitment. In faith they are asking Jesus to be present in our young people.

Together in worship we receive the soaking rain of God's promises, and the true forgiveness that only Jesus Christ can give restores us. *Rain on our children and youth, dear Lord, and grant them a living faith, that they may trust in You for their salvation. Amen.*

**Installation at St. Matthew — Sunday, July 3, 2022**

You can still watch the service from our website home page.



Our Pastors, Deaconess, and guest preacher Harrison Goodman.



Deaconess with her parents, Duane and Kari.

**Deaconess  
Sarah  
Longmire**



Director of Family Life



Ready for our 14-hour van trip to Houston for the LCMS Youth Gathering July 8-13.



Above is a Bible study session for several hundred youth.



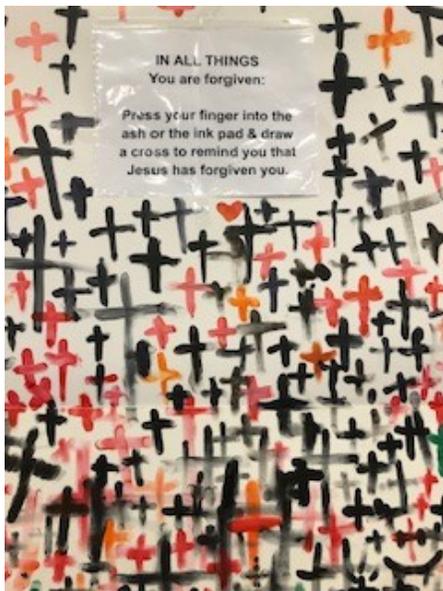
Evening events were held in the Houston Astros' baseball stadium.



This was the 15th Youth Gathering—Did you attend one of these?



Isaac, Hayden, Pastor, Darin, Annie, Deaconess, Elisabeth, Grace, Tess, and Luz... and walking as a group with our backpacks!



A display to paint your own cross... Tess's backpack near the end filled with buttons and etc... our ever-present wristbands for secure entry.



We held a Divine Service on our last day with a student orchestra, choir, President Harrison speaking, and Holy Communion for 19,000.

## ❖ Altar Guild

The Altar Guild will meet on Saturday, August 13 at 9 a.m. in the Library followed by a quick dusting and vacuuming in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in serving on the Altar Guild, please join us or contact Deb Langsdale or Pastor Otto for more information!

## ❖ Classics Meal — *We welcome you to join us that day!*

Thanks to all who joined us for July Classics and bringing such wonderful food. Kudos to Gary & Shirley Mattis and Ken & Phyllis Schramm for a great job hosting the event, and to Carl Morse for his masterful Bingo calling. Congratulations to all the winners (everyone) and to Ken Schramm and Don Ohrenberg for Most/Fewest wins. We won't say which was which.

Our next Classics will be Thursday, August 4 at 11:30 in the Family Life Center. Our hosts will be Ann & Charles Lusher and Betty & Ken Greinke. As you are able, please bring a favorite dish, whether salad, main dish, side or dessert. Whether from home or the store deli, either way is fine.

## ❖ LWML — *Women in Mission*

Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) and St. Matthew Mission Committee would like to thank St. Matthew members for their generous support of *Resource Health Services Baby Bottle and Diaper Drive!*

We provided \$2,600.54 in monetary donations and the following items were brought... Diapers: 506 of size 1 and 246 of size 3. Wipes: 96 toddler wipes and 904 diaper wipes. Our support also included a quilt, baby bathtub and a diaper bag. In addition, the St. Matthew Sewing Group provided 30 nursing covers. The donations were truly appreciated!

## ❖ Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle of St. Matthew LWML enjoyed an evening of fellowship on July 26 at Olive Garden for our Ladies Night Out. All ladies of St. Matthew are invited to join us for our next monthly meeting Tuesday, August 30, at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Family Life Center.

## ❖ LWML—Mission Grant

LWML Grant #15- for St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy in Dallas- "The Littlest and Least of These". This grant helps with the cost to renovate a fellowship hall for the growth of the academy. It will allow the congregation to serve more children, young adults and parents in academic subjects, health and fitness, and hold Bible studies and classes for new Christians. To learn more, go to [lwml.org/2021-2023-mission-grant-15](http://lwml.org/2021-2023-mission-grant-15)

## ❖ 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.



## ❖ Mission Minute

The African Radio Ministries (ARM) Newsletter for July is in a Binder underneath the congregational mailboxes. Here are a few highlights:

Talks are underway with Dr. Phil Frusti from *Lead a Child* regarding training a large team of teachers and evangelists to staff new mission schools in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan. There are a lot of people there who lack basic services and access to education. They hope to establish these new outposts in the near future.

In the month of June 2022, five new House Churches were formed—one of them with close to 1300 members. God is at work here!

—199 people attended Bible/Confirmation classes

—19 were baptized

—37 Bibles were provided

There is information in the binder on how you can support the ongoing efforts of ARM.



Another Mission Movie Night is set for Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> after the evening worship service. We will be showing “Tortured for Christ”, which is a prequel to the *Sabina* movie we showed earlier. It follows the life of the founder of **Voices of the Martyrs**—an organization we support as a Church. Stay tuned for details.

We hope to continue movie nights in the future, as there are a lot of films about the actual experiences and impact people have had by sharing the Gospel and witnessing to Christ all over the world. Mission Minutes will start up again this next month and will be available in the narthex next to the bulletins.

### **Prayer Request** for Missionaries we support through **GLO (Global Lutheran Outreach)**:

Nathan Pittman has been experiencing a strange illness since they returned to Texas for the wedding of Heather’s brother. He has had multiple tests including an MRI and still no answers. They cannot return to Nigeria until this is figured out. The school year there starts in late August. Please pray the doctors and exam team will discern what it is and how to treat it.

Thank you for your prayers for Darin and I, as we helped to chaperone the youth trip to the LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston, and thank you also for your prayers for healing this past week.

*Blessings in Christ, Annie Femrite* — Member at Large, Missions — [annfemrite@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annfemrite@sbcglobal.net)

## ❖ Property Board Notes

Many grateful thanks to all our volunteers assisting the Property Board. Work has been ongoing to keep our landscaping looking nice, weeded and watered. A volunteer has come forward to assist the Preschool Director in organizing their library. Several men have assisted in moving furniture, repurposing some and discarding a piece or two. They have also done some repairs and will hopefully assist with some painting in the Preschool area soon. As Mr. Stubbs would remind us, we ARE truly blessed here at St. Matthew.

*Thank you, thank you.*

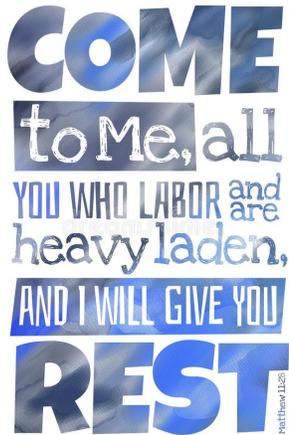
*Blessings to all, Craig*

# St. Matthew



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## AUGUST NEWSLETTER - 2022

### ❖ Thank You from Deaconess

*Dear congregation members,* It is with overwhelming gratitude that I communicate how very thankful I am for the beautiful reception on the day of my installation. Everything from the deaconess-coordinated colors of the flowers and M&M's, to the delicious food and cake. My family, friends, and I all felt loved, included, and very welcomed. Additionally, I was overwhelmed with the card and gift card shower; your generosity and kindness is all-encompassing. Please accept my humblest gratitude and know that I am so very glad and excited to be called to serve at St. Matthew's Lutheran.

*In Jesus' Love, Deaconess Sarah Longmire*

### ❖ School Supply Collection

The St. Matthew Mission Committee is collecting supplies for area Lutheran schools and pre-schools. Please take a list at the display in the narthex, and consider helping teachers and students by supplying needed items. The collection will take place from now until Sunday, Aug. 7.

### ❖ Our New Online Church Directory

You can now log into your computer or phone to use our new online pictorial directory. It's called Instant Church Directory. You can see contact information and pictures for other members of the church, and edit your own information if something changes. If you didn't get your picture taken at church, please upload a photo for your household on the App. Or, you may email or text your photo to Pastor Andrews and he can do it for you. If you have questions or need help accessing the directory, contact Pastor Andrews. Members can log into the Online Member Directory at:

<https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>