

**Good News
From New Road
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, God's Family in Service**

April 2025

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Finance Update

The balance in the checking account at the end of February was \$194,821.07

Holy Week Dates

Sunday, April 13th

9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Service

Thursday, April 17th

6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 18th

6:30 p.m. Good Friday Service

Saturday, April 19th

6:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Fire
(St. Matthew parking lot)

Sunday, April 20th

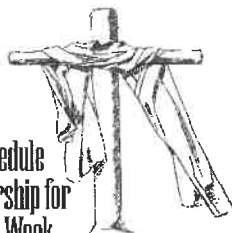
8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast Social



Sunday, April 20th

9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Service

Schedule
of Worship for
Holy Week



W-ELCA NEWS

Circle Reminder

Mary Martha Circle	April 2 at 5:00 p.m.
Grace Circle	April 14 at 10:00 a.m.
Katherine Luther Circle	April 14 at 4:30 p.m.

Check with your Circle to see if there has been a change in the dates or times for the meetings. Please remember to bring a canned good item to donate to Caritas to help those in need in Waco.

Helping Our Community

Our **WELCA Mission statement** encourages each of us to proclaim our "boldness" and to act with kindness. As opportunities occur, please advocate on behalf of those in need. Show caring and mercy to those in need through sacrifice, kindness and stewardship. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you (**Ephesians 4:32**).

Our **Blessing Box** helps many of the people in our area who are in need. **St Matthew's children's Sunday school class places items in the Blessing Box the first Sunday of every month.** Please add a few items to your grocery basket to add to the food for the **Blessing Box**. Our neighbors are extremely grateful for your kindness.

As part of your Circle offering, please bring a food item to donate to **Caritas**. A total of 58 pounds of food was donated by our congregation in the month of January and 78 pounds in February. Please continue to donate what you are able to help prevent hunger in Waco. **Place your donations in the box marked for Caritas and it will be delivered to Caritas** once a month. Our Waco community is very thankful for your kindness.

Midweek Lenten Services

Midweek Lenten services will continue on Wednesdays **April 2 and 9 at noon** at the Episcopal Student Center located at 1712 S 10th St, Waco, TX 76706. These will be shared services with First Lutheran Church. We will be doing Holden Evening Prayer as our liturgy. You may park on the street or by the Episcopal center chapel.

Meals On Wheels is a charity that WELCA supports with a \$50 donation each year. **In addition to delivering meals to participants in the program, pet food is delivered to over 300 cats and dogs each month.** Sadly, sometimes the Meals on Wheels participants are isolated and feel the only love they receive is from their beloved pets. The Pet Program is dependent on donations. Items that are needed include cat food, cat litter, small dog food, and regular-size dog food. Dry pet food is preferred but canned food and treats are welcome. If you would like to donate pet food, please place your donations in the unmarked box next to the Caritas box and it will be delivered to Meals on Wheels once a month. **Your small act of kindness makes a very large difference.**

Spring Gathering

The WELCA Spring Gathering will be held at St. John Lutheran Church in Coryell City on **May 3, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Registration forms and information on the Gathering's topics will be available soon. **If transportation is an issue for you, car pool options will be available.** Also remember that **scholarships are available** to cover the registration costs.



May General Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for **May 17, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall** including a brunch meal. Once again we are extremely blessed to have Rachel from the A&M Ag Department. She will present **nutritional options** for summer meals and **yummy treats**. Please plan on attending!



Altar Flowers

The Church has decided to have **one bouquet** instead of two. A donation to **provide an altar bouquet is a great way to celebrate a birthday, an anniversary or to recognize a great friendship.** Pick a Sunday on the sign up sheet and then please put the **\$35** in one of the envelopes available at your pew. You may either take the flowers with you after our worship service or donate them to be taken to a shut-in.



every direction.

A big **thank you to WELCA** for the **funds** to complete the **landscaping plan** at church. When you have time, walk around and check it out! There is something new in

The property committee gives many hours each week to maintain and improve our building and grounds. **Please let them all know how much you appreciate them!**

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St. Matthew Blessing Tree

Caritas helps fight hunger in Waco by distributing the food donations they receive. Your donations are making a difference to the people in our Waco community.

There is a Blessing Tree on the wall in the Fellowship Hall. Each month the children's Sunday School class will place a bird on a branch in the tree showing the amount of food we have donated to Caritas that month.

In January, St Matthews donated 58 pounds of food. In February, St Matthews donated 78 pounds of food. Thank you for caring about others in our community. Thank you for your generosity.

Art as Worship

This year's theme is ANCESTORS, and our opening gala is scheduled for **Saturday, November 15 at 6:30 p.m.** (mark your calendars!). This means you have **just under 9 months to respond creatively** to the theme — but don't worry! History is rich with inspiration. Please share with all of your artist friends and family. For more information, use the following link.

<https://fineartsministry.blogspot.com/2025/02/2025-art-as-worship-theme-announcement.html>

**Hear the Bells Ringing**

St. Matthew's handbells have been silent for a little while, but we're launching a new chapter and looking for people interested in joining a new handbell adventure! Previous experience is not necessary. We're exploring smaller commitments of preparing pieces several times a year with a few rehearsals prior to ringing in the worship service (read: not an every week or never-ending commitment!) If you're interested or have questions, please contact Bradley Linda or Sha Towers.

**Prayer Room**

Our prayer room is now available to use! The original altar, baptismal font, and shelf from our founding church have been restored and moved into the Prayer Room, **which is located beside the double door going out to the parking lot.** This room is available to anyone wanting to pray, meditate or reflect in privacy. It will be available during church office hours and all church-related events.

Pastor Austin Nickel as Contract Pastor

Pastor Austin has officially become our contract pastor and will be performing pastoral duties here at Saint Matthew. **If you need to reach out to Pastor Austin, please contact the church office to leave a message for him or email him at pastoraustin@stmattwaco.org.** Pastor Austin will also be at the church on **Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-12p.m. if you wish to speak with him in person.**

**Stephen Ministry Meeting**

The Stephen Ministry will meet on **Sunday, April 27th after the worship service.** If you have any questions or want more information, please ask Bill Abright, Peggy Tooker, or Carol Linda.

**Fellowship for Single Women**

Fellowship for Single Women will be meeting on **April 22 at 10:00 a.m. at Cafe Cappuccino.** We meet the fourth Tuesday of every month. **All singles** are invited. For any questions, please contact Rosemary Fielder (fielderatwaco@aol.com)

Friday Quilters Meetings

Friday Quilters meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Fridays at 8:30 a.m. We usually finish up around 10:30 a.m. Come join us.** If you can tie a knot, you can help us assemble the quilts. We have a great fellowship time.



Members with Prayer Concerns:

Rita Bruer, Cora Gillespie, Bill Gillespie Ty Henrichs, Jean Moeller, John C. Linda, Stephanie Partin, Tammy Vickrey, Sharon Peterson, Farrel Bolte, Florence Anderson, Denise Self, Paula Jenson, Helen Henrichs and Barbara Johnson.

Those for whom prayer is**requested:**

Melanie, Elizabeth Dale, Michael Puig, Rob Aho, John Woods (Beth Pristash)

Rodney Roller, James Hurst, Carolyn Hurst, Janice Byrd, Rich Buckner, Tony Knoss, the family of Ralph Sparks, Larry Burgin (Terry Roller) Jimmy Moore, Alleyson Stanley, Harold Strand, Lisa Hyde (Ross & Kim Browne) Wanda Stanford, Cory Stanford, Jaccen Stanford (Linda Stanford) Vicki Terry, Vikki Dzamba (Carol Linda) Jeff Ford, Devin Jackson, John C. Linda, Angie Lowe (Bradley Linda) Curtis Forrester (Bill & Diane Jones) Frank Simons, Ruthie Simons, Kris Braswell, (Colleen Early) Octaviano Estrada Jr., Abby Peters, Ann Mitchell (Meridith Sellers) Janell and Rose Janke (Arlene Schwarz) Renlee Montgomery, the Montgomery family (Marcyl Howell) Bryan, and Zoe Cruse (Lee & Marilyn Cruse) "Red" Tiner, Gina Grisham, Kathy Coleman (Del & Sue Hensel) Diana & Saul Guajardo (Ashley Jenson) Wendell Mosley (Paula Jenson) Rhonda Smith Owens (Denise Self) Wolfgang, Gert Gstattenbauer, Werner Gstattenbauer (Roger & Betty Fornelius) Those in California affected by wildfires Tina Cousins

April Birthdays

Ron Lambring	4/01
Janet Roller	4/01
David Nesmith	4/02
Florence Anderson	4/03
Sharon Gripp	4/06
Stephanie Partin	4/06
Amy Taylor	4/06
Doris Akard	4/09
Betty Bracken	4/09
Bradley Linda	4/09
Sue Hensel	4/10
Bill Krause	4/12
Cody Browne	4/13
Colten Stanford	4/13
Debbie Evans	4/14
Terry Bracken	4/17
Paul Larson	4/17
Denise Masters	4/17
David Boeche	4/21
Matt Linda	4/22
Paula Jenson	4/24
Bob Vergamini	4/28

April Anniversaries

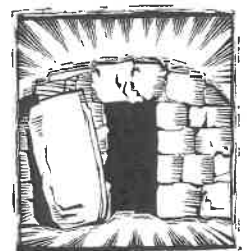
Larry & Pat Dietrich	4/17
Robert & Betty Krienke	4/17

The **monthly newsletter deadline** is the **3rd Sunday** of each month. Please send submissions to cvanauken@grandecom.net or you may place your

handwritten information and thank you notes in the wooden box near the entrance of the workroom. Thank you!

Prayer Requests and Concerns

We continue to pray for one another and those close to us. If you have an update or a concern, please call the office and leave a message.



E A S T E R

April 2025

May 2025 ▶

◀ Mar 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11:00am Deanery 5:00pm Calligraphy Guild Board Meeting	2 Noon Midweek Lenten Service	3	4 9:00am Quilters	5
6 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	7	8 11:00am Domino (42) Group 6:30pm Aggie Moms Group	9 1:30pm WELCA Board Meeting	10	11 9:00am Quilters	12 9:00am Calligraphy Guild
13 9:30am Palm Sunday Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	14 10:00am Grace Circle 4:30pm Katherine Luther Circle	15	16	17 6:00pm Stephen Ministry 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service	18 9:00am Quilters 6:30pm Good Friday Service	19 10:00am Private Event 6:30pm Easter Vigil Fire
20 8:30am Easter Breakfast Social 9:30am Easter Sunday Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	21	22 10:00am Fellowship for Single Women	23	24	25 9:00am Quilters	26
27 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	28	29 11:00am Domino (42) Group	30			