

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

June 2025

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Finance Update

The balance in the checking account at the end of April was \$199,776.93



W-ELCA NEWS

Circle Reminder

June is a combined Circle Bible Study on **June 25th at 10:00 a.m.** Pastor Austin will be leading the study. There will be **no Circle Bible Study during the months of July and August.** Starting in **September, we will combine our Circles into one Circle that will meet on a Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.** Specific dates will be provided. Nancy Zelisko will lead each Bible study.

Helping Our Community

Our WELCA Mission statement encourages each of us to proclaim our "boldness" and to act with kindness.

In June 1966, Robert F. Kennedy spoke at The University of Cape Town in South Africa. In his speech now called Ripples of Hope, he said each time a person acts to improve the lot of others he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope. As these tiny ripples meet, they combine into a strong current of hope which generates amazing things. Each time you bring a food item for Caritas, bring a food item for our Blessing Box, create a quilt, donate to a health kit, donate to a school back pack, donate toys to Mission Waco's Toy Store, you are sending out a ripple of hope. Each of the ripples make a difference and help to bring hope to someone in need of a blessing.



The Blessing Box is in need of donations. Our **Blessing Box** helps many of the people in our area who are in need. **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**. 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. The **Caritas Blessing Tree** in the Fellowship Hall has birds attached for each month showing the total amount of food collected that month. The food you donate really does make a difference to our neighbors in need.

Meals On Wheels is a charity that **WELCA** supports with a \$50 donation each year. **It has been in the news that their funding is going to be cut.** This is a very important charity many people depend on for food and human contact. As the meals are delivered, the Meals On Wheels volunteer visits and is able to determine if there is a need for help to be arranged. 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 was held at St. John Lutheran Church in Coryell City on May 3rd. We were represented by Helen Henrichs, Linda Heyde and Peggy Tooker. We honored our saints, Jean Bush and Pat Gorton, who passed away this past year. Money was raised for our scholarship fund. Remember to apply for a scholarship if you plan on attending a gathering in the future.

May General Meeting

Thank you to everyone who contributed food and drinks to the meeting. Rachel Esquivel from the A&M Agrilife Extension provided a presentation on healthy eating. She reminded everyone that **classes are provided on various topics** including Diabetes Management, Cooking Well Programs, Health Talks, Weight Management and Healthy Lifestyle Programs. **If you are interested in her classes, please call Rachel at 254-757-5180. All classes are held at 4224 Cobbs Drive, Waco 76701.**

**Called Congregational Meeting****Congregational Meeting**

Following Service on Sunday, **June 8th**, we will be holding a called congregational meeting, and we ask that you please plan on attending.

Pastor Austin's Updated Hours

Pastor Austin has officially become our contract pastor and will be moving to full-time hours starting in **June**. Pastor Austin will be at the church office Tuesday through Thursday from 10am to 5pm. Pastor Austin can also be contacted through the church office or by email at pastoraustin@stmattwaco.org.

New Member Recognition

On **June 8** we will **recognize and welcome new members** in the St. Matthew family. During service we will have a blessing for our new members and a **time of fellowship following service in the Fellowship Hall.**

Hello, My Name is...

We have begun wearing name tags on Sunday for worship, as new members continue arriving this will help everyone get to know one another better. Name tags will be located in the Narthex and by the bulletins.

**Summer Offerings**

With summer finally upon us and schools beginning to close for the break, we wanted everyone to remember that giving in the summer months can go down. As people travel, visit family, and make plans for the summer, offerings can be accidentally overlooked and cause pledges to fall behind. St. Matthew relies on our congregation, and we are extremely grateful to everyone who contributes.

We at St. Matthew are overjoyed to have our congregation be such a close and cheerful one, and we hope everyone has a great and joyful summer.

Sunday Learning

Sunday Learn for the Adult Class and Children's classes **will not meet during the summer months. We will resume Sunday Learning on Sunday, September 7, 2025. Have a great summer!!!**

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.

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.

St. Matthew Scholarship Committee News

The St. Matthew-Bracken Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. College scholarships are awarded to undergraduate and graduate students based on academic performance, financial need, and church involvement. You can find the application on our website (stmattwaco.org) under the news and events tab. **For questions, please contact Hope Cotner, committee chair, at hcotner@cord.org.**



Eligibility: 2025 high school graduates and current college students are eligible to apply. See additional requirements below.

Application Requirements: Official transcripts must accompany all applications.

Application Deadline: Email all materials by **June 22, 2025** to hcotner@cord.org

2025 NT-NL Assembly Review

April 25-26, 2025, the NT-NL Assembly was held in Lubbock, Texas. Bill & Diane Jones served as Lay Delegates. Also attending were Pastor Austin Nickel and Victor Larson.

- There were no major issues at this assembly.
- Assembly passed a goal of forming/establishing 4 new congregations in the next 10 years. The structure or plan to do this will be formed by Synod committee in the future. Discussion noted questions concerning the process...should not follow the plan or structure used over the last 20 to 30 years. Questions also arose concerning how to help struggling congregations now versus forming new congregations.
- NT-NL Coaching teams are available to "assist" congregations struggling.
- Emphasis was made concerning Common Ground theme of the assembly. Congregations are encouraged to reach out to other congregations to work on common community projects or charitable needs. Don't limit outreach to only Lutheran churches.

- Victor Larson was a candidate for Synod Council Secretary. Anthony Ormsdee-Hale was elected. Victor was thanked for his willingness to serve.
- Big turnover is coming in church-wide Bishops (11 of 32) and NT-NL Council members.
- Breakout meetings concerned discussion around what is going well in congregations and what were some of the problem areas.
- Overall this was a good assembly...there was even time for some fun.

Bill & Diane Jones, Lay Delegates



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>





Fellowship for Single Women

Fellowship for Single Women will be meeting **on June 24th 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, Stephanie Partin, Tammy Vickrey, Sharon Peterson, Farrel Bolte,

Florence Anderson, Denise Self, Paula Jenson, Helen Henrichs, Barbara Johnson, Corey Heidt, and Arlene Schwarz.



Those for whom prayer is requested:

Elizabeth Dale, 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, Jacen Stanford (Linda Stanford)

Vicki Terry, Vikki Dzamba (Carol 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, Nancy Hensel (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)
Robin Waite (Billie Hueske)
Dylan James Tristian Smith (Teresa Umberger)
Joann Bottoms (Mary Herring)
Joyce Schneider (Shelly Jasek)

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.




June Birthdays

Ann Towers	6/02
Katherine Lowrimore	6/02
Jean Bush	6/03
Teresa Bancale	6/05
Kathi Heckmann-Quinn	6/05
Ty Henrichs	6/07
Henry Beard	6/08
Sally Engelbrecht	6/08
Allana Stanford	6/09
Janet Reiske	6/12
Denise Self	6/13
Sean Smith	6/15
Edie Walker	6/16
Kathy Nordt	6/10
Colleen Early	6/30

June Anniversaries

Kemper Beard & DeAnna	6/01
Bill & Mary Krause	6/01
Sha & Ann Towers	6/13
Paul & Pilar Ridriguez-Larson	6/14
John & Shelly Jasek	6/15
John & Lori Smith	6/23

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!



June 2025							Jul 2025 ▶
◀ May 2025	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Worship Service	2		3 12:00pm-1:00pm <i>Deanery</i>	4 1:00pm-3:00pm Coffee Fellowship	5	6 9:00am Quilters	7
8 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Called Congregational Meeting	9		10	11	12	13 9:00am Quilters	14 9:00am-4:00pm <i>Calligraphy Guild</i>
15 9:30am Worship Service	16		17 11:00am-4:00pm <i>Domino (42) Group</i>	18	19	20 9:00am Quilters	21
22 9:30am Worship Service	23		24 10:00am Fellowship for Single Women	25 10:00am Combined Circle Meeting	26	27 9:00am Quilters	28
29 9:30am Worship Service	30						