

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

April 2026

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

***He Is Risen! He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!***

Oh the joy that comes with hearing those words! It is the Easter season at last! Spring is here and there is a newness that surrounds the season that brings hope, life, and possibility.

Growing up in the Lutheran Church, Easter was always so special, because my home church in Sioux Falls did everything with so much detail. Every year, I would get up very early in the morning when it was still dark so that I could attend their sunrise service. We would sit in silence and in darkness at the beginning of the service, still recognizing the already, but not yet. The front cross which towered about 12 feet high was covered in a black shroud. When it was time for the worship to begin, two people would come out of the sacristy, walk toward the cross in the dark, lift up the black shroud, and reveal the cross completely covered in greens and real, live, lilies. When the black cloth dropped, the smell of the lilies filled the sanctuary, and you could smell the life that was there hanging on the cross, this representation that Jesus was no longer dead, but that Jesus was alive and raised from the dead! Then the Timpani drums and orchestra would begin to play Jesus Christ is Risen Today, we would stand up and sing. The sound filled the room, and left you shaken in the awe of it all, it was an incredible feeling! It stands as a favorite memory of mine that will be with me always. To me the excitement of that moment and all of its music, imagery, and reminder of the resurrection, brought me a sure hope that death is not the end. It is only the beginning.



This Easter season I hope that you can find hope and life all around you, listen to the sounds of nature, the wind in the trees, the birds singing, people walking and talking, the sky, and in that stillness, as it says in the Psalms, we can be still and know that there is God. This Easter season we remember that Jesus is living among us, alive in us and shining that light in the world with us.

On behalf of myself and the staff at St. Matthew Lutheran Church we wish you a very happy, joyous Easter season. He is Risen! He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

In Christ,

Austin Nickel

### Holy Week at St. Matthew



**April 2nd at 6:30 p.m.** – Agape Meal and Worship

**April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.** – Good Friday Cantata

**April 4th at 5:00 p.m.** – The Great Easter Vigil

**April 5th at 8:30 a.m.** – Easter Breakfast.

**April 5th at 9:30 a.m.** – Easter Sunday



**Pastor Austin out of the Office**

Pastor Austin will be out of the office **April 10-16**. The Rev Irma Bañales from the NT-NL Synod will preach on **April 12**.

The Kempers and Pastor Austin will also be at Synod Assembly **April 23-25**. Please keep them in prayer as they travel to Arlington for this event.

**Pastor Austin's April Book Picks**

**The World's Religions** – By Hutson Smith

**Adam** – God's Beloved, By Henri J. M. Nouwen

**The Mystery of Easter** – By Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Finance Update**

The balance in the checking account at the end of February was \$225,729.04

**WELCA NEWS****Circle Of Faith – April 14**

**April 14th at 10:00 a.m.** in the church Fellowship Hall led by Nancy Zelisko.

The Cost of Nondiscipleship by Dallas Willard

**2026 Spring Gathering – April 18**

The **Spring Gathering** will be at **St Matthew** on **April 18th (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)**. You will **need to register and pay the \$35 fee** which covers coffee time and snacks, lunch and a welcome gift packet and door prizes (total of 12). **Remember that scholarships are available to cover the cost of registration.** We are very pleased to have a **speaker from Isaiah 117 House** telling us about how **they are providing a loving alternative to children when they need it most.** She will talk about how you can get involved. Many volunteer opportunities are available if this is something that speaks to your heart. **Check-In, coffee and snacks start the Gathering off at 9:00 a.m.**

**God's Work - Our Hands**

You are all a wonderful, thoughtful group of women constantly showing kindness to members of our Church family and our neighbors.

Please help our neighbors by continuing to bring donations to the **Caritas Foodbank**. Caritas depends on generous people like those at St Matthew to help put food on the tables of our neighbors who are feeling the stress of feeding their family.

Donating to the **Meals On Wheels Pet Food Pantry** is a wonderful way to show our neighbors that they are not forgotten. The cost of pet food has really increased. In a year the price of a can of Fancy Feast cat food increased from around 80 cents to \$1.18. The **Meals on Wheels clients are struggling** and truly appreciate your donations of pet food.

Our St Matthew **Blessing Box** provides food and snack items for our neighbors struggling with the cost of groceries. **Please put food items in the Blessing Box to help those in our own neighborhood who are hungry.** Anything you give is truly a blessing!

**Report from March WELCA General Meeting**

Thank you to all who attended our March General Meeting. We celebrated our 2026 choice for Bold Woman by having the Brewer family attend. The Brewer children proclaimed our lasagna to be the best lasagna they had ever eaten! The **presentation on fraud and scams by Sergeant Henderson** of the Hewitt Police Department discussed many ways to avoid being a victim to fraud and scams. A copy of her presentation is available if you would like to read through it.

### **Fraud And Scam Prevention Information – Be Aware – Be Safe**

- The information from the **Hewitt Police Department's** presentation at our March meeting is available if you would like to read through it.
- **AARP** has information on their website on current scams and advice on how to avoid being a victim. Their trained fraud specialists provide support and guidance on what to do and how to avoid scams. The AARP fraud helpline, 877-908-3360, is free and available to anyone. AARP also offers online support sessions for emotional support to victims of scams. AARP information warns you about common scammer phrases that try to create false urgency, demand secrecy, or promise financial gain to manipulate victims. Red flags include, "Your account will be suspended/frozen," "Put your money in a safe account," and "Kindly" followed by a request. Other common tactics involve romance scams ("I'm in jail/hurt") and urgency ("Act now"). It is important to remember that you should slow down and not panic. They depend on creating confusion and panic so don't let them! Take control of the situation and protect yourself.
- **Senior Minded YouTube** is a guide to a confident, secure and thriving life after 60. The videos are easy to understand and provide good advice on many topics. They advertise they "cut through the noise to bring actionable information on topics that matter the most" including money and scams, health and wellness, tech hacks and safety, lifestyle and retirement.

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### **Ridgecrest Retirement Home Service**

Our **April service** at Ridgecrest Retirement Home will be on **Thursday, April 9th at 10:00 a.m.** We invite all St. Matthew members to attend, and there will be a volunteer sign-up sheet for this service on the podium in the gathering area.



**The Stephen Ministry** meets every January, April, July, and October. Our **next meeting** will be on **April 19th right after the worship service.**

If you have any questions or want more information, please ask Bill Abright or Peggy Tooker.

### **Beer & Hymns at Brotherwell Brewing**

Join us for Beer and Hymns at Brotherwell Brewing located at 400 E Bridge Street in Waco on **Sunday, April 26** starting at **noon**. We will be **partnering with First Presbyterian Church of Waco** for this event. If you have questions contact Pastor Austin.



### **Fellowship for Single Women**

Fellowship for Single Women will be meeting **on Tuesday, April 28th 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](mailto:fielderatwaco@aol.com))



**New Bookstudy led by Pastor Austin begins on April 29**

One of the important aspects of our call as Lutheran people is to care and love our neighbors. As we know, not all neighbors share the same beliefs as us, which makes it so important for us to understand our neighbors faith, to know how we can be present with them, find our common ground and friendship together. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves as it says in the Scriptures. Join us in the Parlor starting Wednesday, April 29 at 5:30 as we begin a new study called Embracing Interfaith Cooperation by Eboo Patel. Books are \$14 and a sign-up sheet will be posted on the podium outside the sanctuary. Hope to see you there!

**Art As Worship**

The Fine Arts Committee is pleased to announce the Art as Worship **theme for 2026: REST**

Our **opening gala** will be on **November 7, 2026**, which means there's lots of time to respond creatively and artistically. **Please share with friends and family who might like to participate.**

Talk to Jeanne Dittmann or DeAnna Toten Beard if you have any questions.



**Church Directory Update**

**It's time for a church directory update!** On Palm and **Easter Sunday**, church council members will be hosting update "stations" in the fellowship hall after service. **Please plan to stop by** so we can update your family's contact information, add birthdays, etc. We will also have a **photographer available** to take your picture

**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.



**Flowers for the Altar**

A donation to dedicate 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 in the gathering area and then please put the \$40 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.

**Notes for Pastor Austin**

Have an idea? A prayer request? Some information that Pastor Austin could use? Feel free to leave him a note in the little black mailbox next to his office door.

**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.



**Members with Prayer Concerns:**

Rita Bruer, Cora Gillespie, Bill Gillespie, Ty Henrichs, Jean Moeller, Stephanie Partin, Tammy Vickery, Sharon Peterson, Farrel

Bolte, Florence Anderson, Denise Self, Arlene Schwarz, Leeana Bond, Kathy Nordt, Ann Pierson, Doris & Robert Schuetze, Nancy Zelisko, Bill Jones, and Carol Linda.

**Those for whom prayer is requested:**

Elizabeth Dale, John Woods, Michael Puig, Dora Torres, Hadley and her family (Beth Pristash)

Julie Kross, Brian Thomas, Lauren Roller, Rodney & Kim Roller Teri Mytton (Terry Roller)

Jimmy Moore, Harold Strand, Sandy Peterson Penny Reese (Ross & Kim Browne)

Wanda Stanford, Cory Stanford, Jacen Stanford (Linda Stanford)

Vicki Terry, Duane Knudson (Carol Linda)

Curtis Forrester (Bill & Diane Jones)

Frank Simons, Ruthie Simons, Kris Braswell, (Colleen Early)

Octaviano Estrada Jr., Abby Peters, Ann Mitchell (Meridith Sellers)

Renlee Montgomery, the Montgomery family (Marcyl Howell)

Bryan, and Zoe Cruse (Lee & Marilyn Cruse)

“Red” Tiner Kathy Coleman, Nancy Hensel (Del & Sue Hensel)

Diana & Saul Guajardo (Ashley Jenson)

Wendell Mosley, Nancy Lynch, Mary Chapa (Paula Jenson)

Wolfgang, Gert Gstattenbauer, Werner Gstattenbauer (Roger & Betty Fornelius)

Darlene Gemath, Bell Hutchings, Robbie Rash, Taylor Cordovano (Mary Herring)

Lambring & Collander Families, Anita Minchew, Addison Lowery, Shane & Syrilla

Grandara (Maggie Lambring)

Reba Widmer, Roland & Sharon Krienke (Teresa Bancale)

Todd Butts (Bancale & Krienke Families)

Jose Sanchez (Nancy & Larry Zelisko)

Bryanna & Calen Orta (Kay Wallace)

Amy Siller (Edna Dietrich)

Henry, Cassidey, & Dylon Person (Daylon Crye)

The Kris Family, The Waite Family (Billie A. Hueske)

Noel Jones (Janice Jones)

The Bullard Family

Grace Lutheran in Abilene

The Family of Troy Minnick (Bradley Linda)

**April Birthdays**

Ron Lambring 4/01

Janet Roller 4/01

Pat McCord 4/01

Florence Anderson 4/03

Amy Taylor 4/06

Sharon Gripp 4/06

Doris Akard 4/09

Bradley Linda 4/09

Sue Hensel 4/10

Bill Krause 4/12

Cody Browne 4/13

Colten Stanford 4/13

Paul Larson 4/17

Denise Masters 4/17

Matt Linda 4/22

Pastor Austin 4/23

Paula Jenson 4/24

Ryan Henry 4/25

Bob Vergamini 4/28

Thomas Smith 4/30

**April Anniversaries**

Robert & Betty Krienke 4/17

Our monthly newsletter deadline is the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Sunday of each month.

Please send submissions

to [cvanauken@grandecom.net](mailto: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!



# April 2026

◀ Mar 2026	April 2026					May 2026 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				6:30pm Agape Meal and Worship	9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Good Friday	5:00pm Great Easter Vigil
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30am Easter Breakfast 9:30am Easter Sunday 10:45am Sunday Learning		Noon-1:00pm <i>Deanery</i>		10:00am Ridgecrest Service	9:00am Quilters	9:00am-Noon <i>Calligraphy Guild</i>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning		10:00am Circle of Faith		6:00pm Stephen Ministry	9:00am Quilters	9:00am-2:00pm WELCA Spring Gathering
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning		11:00am-4:00pm <i>Domino (42) Group</i>			9:00am Quilters	
26	27	28	29	30		
9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning Noon Beer & Hymns at Brotherwell Brewing		10:00am Fellowship for Single Women	5:30pm Midweek Bookstudy			