

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

May 2024

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Ascension Day

In the midst of the church calendar, there's a significant day often overshadowed this time of year. It lacks the fanfare of resurrection and the fervor of Pentecost. Yet, it's a day etched in the disciples' memory: the Ascension of our Lord.

Celebrated on the 40th day of Easter, the second Thursday before Pentecost (this year May 9), the Ascension marks Christ's return to heaven. It's a solemn occasion affirming Christ's reign over life and death, a silent proclamation of Christ's resurrection.

"Then [Jesus] led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-51)

Imagine the disciples' emotions as they watched Jesus vanish from their midst. No more touching his wounds or sharing meals by the fire. The world changed in an instant. Yet, amidst their confusion, they received a promise: the Holy Spirit, empowering them to carry on Christ's ministry of spreading the Good News.

Ascension Day initiates a relay of faith—a baton passed from Christ to his followers. It's as if Jesus said, "It's your turn now. Carry this message of hope to all." Though tempted to search the skies for Christ's return, the disciples are reminded to see Christ's presence among themselves, as they proclaim Easter's Good News. The responsibility now falls on their shoulders.

This relay stretches across centuries, as each generation passes Christ's love to the next. The baton is now in our hands. With the Holy Spirit's fire, we're part of this eternal relay, spreading Christ's message wherever we go.

In the hope of the ascended Christ,
Pastor Kelsey

Council Notes

- The balance in the checking account at the end of February was \$182,447.08
- Voted on the final draft of Valor Lease
- Discussed missionary sponsorship of the Ronnevik Family
- Set a called congregational meeting date for May 19, 2024

Called Congregational Meeting

On May 19 following worship, we will gather for a called congregational meeting. We will be meeting to discuss and vote on a lease with Valor for the 2024-2025 School year, and a missionary sponsorship for the Ronnevik family. Copy of the lease and answers to some questions you may have, will be available for pickup at church.

Roof Loan Update

Our Line of Credit, when all roof repairs were completed was \$98,258.00. Since then we have been making principal payments using offerings from the congregation after reaching a certain amount. We have lowered the principal amount to \$72,385.70 as of March 31st, 2024. Thank you! The Lower we can get the principal the less we will pay for the interest over the life of the loan when it begins in July. If you were wanting to make a one-time offering for 2024, and have the funds available, please make it before June 15th so we can lower the principal even more.

W-ELCA NEWSCircle Reminder for June

June Circles will all meet on **June 10th at 10:00 a.m.** with Pastor Kelsey leading the Bible study.

May General Meeting – Date Change

Please plan to attend the May General Meeting on May 18th at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. The speaker is from The Cove. The Cove's mission is to provide a safe place for youth experiencing homelessness and to provide the resources they need to thrive. The youth receive tutoring, daily meals and facilities to shower and do laundry. Please bring a healthy snack or bottled water to donate to The Cove. If you are interested in volunteering or providing additional donations please refer to The Cove's website. We will enjoy a brunch meal after the presentation.

Monthly Circle Lunch

All Circle members are invited to meet for lunch and fellowship the **second Monday of the month at George's in Hewitt at 11:30.** If you are interested in attending please contact Kim Brown at 254-709-2417 to sign up. Thank you Kim for organizing these opportunities for us!

Altar Flowers Ministry

Our altar flowers are taken to shut-ins to help brighten their day. If you would like to brighten someone's day please contact Rosemary Fielder at 254-776-4472.

HOT Spring Gathering

Members of St Matthew's WELCA Circles attended the gathering that was held in Temple. The topic was Serve With Joy. About 55 WELCA members from various churches attended. Peggy Tooker was elected the secretary of the HOT Conference. Linda Heyde will provide additional information at our upcoming General Meeting.

Weekly Bible Study

Wednesday Bible study will resume as normal starting May 1st at 11:00am.



Mary Krause Birthday Reception

You are invited to a reception following church on **Sunday, May 5** in the **fellowship hall**. Please help celebrate **Mary Krause's 90th birthday!** Refreshments will be served. No gifts necessary but hugs are welcome!



Stephen Ministry Meetings

The Stephen Ministry meeting times have **changed**, we will meet on the third Thursday every January, April, July, and

October. Our **next meeting** will be on **July 18**, at **6:00 p.m.** If you have any questions or want more information, please ask Bill Abright, Peggy Tooker, or Carol Linda.



women's fellowship

Fellowship for Single Women

Fellowship for Single Women will be meeting on May 28 at 10:00 a.m. at Cafe Cappuccino. For any questions, please contact Rosemary Fielder (fielderatwaco@aol.com)



QUILTING GROUP

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.

Combined Youth Event

We will be having the last official combined youth event of the year on May 19. Celebrating the joy of Pentecost, we will gather at Main Event at 3:00pm for bowling, food, arcade games, and more. If you have any questions please reach out to Pastor Kelsey.



Scholarship

Bracken Scholarship

Each year St. Matthew Lutheran is pleased to award Bracken Scholarships to deserving college students. To qualify for a scholarship, the applicant must be (1) graduating high school and planning to attend college in the fall; or (2) a college student who will be continuing in the fall. Applications for the scholarship will be made available and will be announced during services when it is ready to download. For any questions please contact Hope Cotner.

Sound Volunteers



Help during worship doesn't always look like reading or serving up front, sometimes it means helping in the back behind the scenes. If you are interested in learning how to run our sound and help with the live-stream please reach out to Pastor Kelsey or call the church office. A guide is being prepared to help to make it as simple as possible

Emergency Fund



Through your generosity, St. Matthew now has an Emergency Fund available to members of the St. Matthew community for up to \$250 per year. This fund is to assist individuals/families with immediate needs related to, but not limited to, food, housing medical costs, job loss, and other emergent situations. Hard copies of the applications are available in the church office. If you would like to contribute to this fund you may do so by indicating "emergency fund" on your offering envelope or write it in the memo line of your written check. If you have questions please contact Pastor Kelsey.



Members with Prayer Concerns:

Rita Bruer, Cora Gillespie, Ty Henrichs, John Linda, Jean Moeller, Stephanie Partin, Denise Self, Tammy Vickrey, and Farrel Bolte.

Those for whom prayer is requested:



Melanie, Charlotte Sperflage,
Elizabeth Dale, Mary Gower
(Beth Pristash)
Rodney Roller, Patrick Dalton,
Wanda Brinegar, James Hurst,
Carolyn Hurst, Janice Byrd, Rich
Buchner, Barbara Bradshaw, Jerry
Mars, Ralph Sparks (Terry Roller)
Jimmy Moore, Alleyson Stanley
(Ross & Kim Browne)

Doris Ashley, Clark Munn, Karen Bottoms, Pam
Brady, May Rash, Dawn Joek (Mary Herring)
Ty Croford, Wanda Stanford, Cory Stanford (Linda
Stanford)
Rhonda & Shane Owens (Denise Self)
Vicki Terry, Vikki Dzamba (John & Carol Linda)
Kathy Neill, Jeff Ford, Devin Jackson (Bradley
Linda)
Dale Pommer (Sharon Peterson)
Paula Barfield Unger (Rilla Vieregge)
Patsy & Curtis Forrester (Bill & Diane Jones)
Frank Simons, Ruthie Simons, Kris Braswell,
(Colleen Early)
Octavio Estrada Jr., Kristen Curbo, Marilyn
(Meridith Sellers)
Janell, and Rose Janke (Arlene Schwarz)
Renlee Montgomery, Glen Howell (Marcyl Howell)
Bryan, and Zoe Cruse (Lee & Marilyn Cruse)
Sherlon Dyer, J.J. Williams, "Red" Tiner, Gina
Grisham, Pete Anderson (Del & Sue Hensel)
Roy & Florence Anderson
The Ronnevik Family

Ed Taylor 5/16
Tammy Bush 5/17
Shawna White 5/22
Linda Stanford 5/23
Bea Ronnevik 5/26
Max Towers 5/27
Mayumi Brewer 5/27
Isaac Brewer 5/27

May Anniversaries

Cory & Megan Stanford 5/16
Bill & Stephanie Abright 5/21

Newsletter
The monthly newsletter
deadline is the 3rd Sunday of
each month. Please send
submissions to
cvanauken@grandecom.net or place your
handwritten information and thank you notes in
the wooden box near the entrance of the
workroom. Thank you!



Thank you for keeping members of the
congregation, and their friends and family
in your prayers. **Please contact the
church office with any additions or
removals.**

May Birthdays

Cory Stanford 5/04
Mary Krause 5/08
Maggie Lambring 5/10
Carter Towers 5/11
Alaine Copeland 5/13
Sharon Peterson 5/13
Bobby Zimmerman 5/13



Blessing Box
Thank you for your
continued donations to
the Blessing Box. It is
often the case that we fill it one day and it is nearly
empty the next. We are certainly filling a need in the
community. **Water and hygiene products are
always needed.**

May 2024							Jun 2024 ▶
◀ Apr 2024	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir	2	3 9:00am Quilters	4
5 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	6	7	8 11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Mary Martha Circle 6:30pm Choir	9	10 9:00am Quilters	11 9:00am Calligraphy Guild	
12 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Called Congregational Meeting	13 10:00am Grace Circle 4:30pm Katherine Luther Circle	14	15 11:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir	16	17 9:00am Quilters	18 9:30am WELCA General Meeting	
19 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning 3:00pm Combined Youth Group	20	21	22 11:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir	23	24 9:00am Quilters	25	
26 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	27	28 10:00am Fellowship for Single Women	29 11:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir	30	31 9:00am Quilters		