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

November 2026 St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

An Attitdue of Gratitude

A blessed Thanksgiving season to you all. Gratitude is an attitude that enables us to appreciate our blessings from God, big and small. It is a profound feeling that can uplift our spirits, shift our perspective, and bring about positive change. And in our faith gratitude is central to our practice. Gratitude is more than just saying "thank you." It is a state of mind, a conscious choice to acknowledge the goodness in our lives. It expands our awareness, enabling us to truly appreciate the beauty and blessings that surround us.

Gratitude has the power to uplift not only our lives but also the lives of those around us. Expressing gratitude to others not only makes them feel valued and appreciated, but it also deepens our own sense of connection and fulfillment. Acts of kindness, encouraging words, and heartfelt appreciation have the potential to create a ripple effect of gratitude in our communities, and allow us to show love to our neighbors.

Cultivating a grateful heart is a transformative practice that can bring joy, contentment, and resilience into our lives. Gratitude allows us to shift our perspective, focus on the present moment, and find beauty in both the extraordinary and the ordinary. By practicing gratitude and spreading its influence, we can create a positive ripple effect that touches the lives of those around us, allowing Christ to be shown and experienced in our world.

As we navigate life's ups and downs, let gratitude be our guiding light, helping us find joy and peace in every situation, and to remember we have a God who loves us and cares for us always.

Happy Thanksgiving!

In Christ,

Austin Nickel

Be sure to join us on Sunday, November 22nd as we have our Thanksgiving service during our regular worship time at 9:30 AM.

November 11th



Pastor Austin's November Book Picks

The Land is Not Empty– Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, Sarah Augustine

Job and the Mystery of Suffering– Spiritual Reflections, Richard Rohr

Finance Update

The balance in the checking account at the end of September was $252,602.36

The total income for September was $47,302.73, and the total exepenses were $31,233.20

The current overall balance for the year is $6,714.94

WELCA NEWS

Circle of Faith Bible Study

- **Second Tuesday at 10:00** a.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall led by Nancy Zelisko
- Studying ***The Cost of Nondiscipleship*** by Dallas Willard
- Lunch at George's after Bible Study—talk to Kim Browne if you are interested in lunch since reservations must be made

Women Who Work Gathering

The **second Tuesday of every month** from **6:30 - 8:30** come together for **Bible and Bunco Night**. Nancy Zelisko will present a devotion/study prior to the Bunco games. Snacks and drinks will be served. **Knowledge of Bunco is not necessary** in order to join in for a night of fellowship. **Contact Nancy Zelisko if you would like to attend.**

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR - WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR

St. Matthew offers you many opportunities to show love to our neighbors. If one of these speaks to your heart, please consider supporting it. Your support is a wonderful way to show our neighbors that there is love in the world - **especially for them in their time of great need.**



Mission Waco Toy Store

It's Mission Waco Toy Store time again!

St. Matthew will be collecting new toys (toddler to 10 years old) during the month of November. Your donations will bring happiness to over 2,000 children this Christmas. Your toy donations are truly a blessing to these parents making it possible for them to give their children a happy Christmas.

There are many volunteer opportunities during the Toy Store event 12/1 - 12/3 so if you are in the Christmas spirit and want to participate **check out Mission Waco's website for information**. Your gift of your time volunteering is needed to make the Toy Store event a success.

St Matthew has again been invited to participate in. the Christian Motorcyclist Association Bikers of the Son toy run on 11/29. Bikers of the Son are scheduled to stop at St. Matthew to pick up our donations at 8:50. Please plan on getting to Church in time to **greet them and also snack on Christmas cookies.**

Our St. Matthew Kids will be great helpers with our Toy Store event. You won't be able to miss them as they wear their elf hats with their names embroidered on them. They will help organize the toys you generously donate and give the bikers Christmas cookies when they come to collect our toy donations. **Be sure to tell them what a good job they are doing!**

Caritas Food Bank



Hunger is a real thing for many of our Waco neighbors. Holiday meals are an important part of a family's celebration. **Caritas receives a large number of turkeys** but are in need of the side dish items that complete the meal. **Please help if you are able by donating cans of green beans and yams, jars and powder mix packets of gravy, canned fruit and cranberries, boxes of stuffing mix, cake mixes, bags of nuts for Caritas to be distribute with the turkeys**. Every single **donation is a blessing** to our neighbors. **If you are looking for a place to volunteer, Caritas has many opportunities available.**

Meals On Wheels Pet Food Pantry

Many Meals on Wheels **clients have beloved pets that mean the world to them**. The **price** of pet food **has soared** and many don't have the money in their budget to buy it. **Please help feed the 400+ pets Meals on Wheels feeds on a monthly basis** by donating **pet food**. Dry pet food is preferred but anything is welcome.

St. Matthew Blessing Box

Please show your love and kindness to the **neighbors** living near Saint Matthew by **contributing food items and health care items to our Blessing Box. Thank you for your generosity. It truly means so very much to those in need.**

Fall Retreat - Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

The Retreat was a huge success with around 60 people in attendance from churches and the local organizations St. Matthew has partnered with over the years. **Rev Irma Banales** and our very own **Rev Austin Nickel** each **gave amazing talks** helping us explore the answer to the question "Who is my neighbor?"

Pastor Austin called out the numbers for our BINGO games like a pro! Unfortunately, there were no new millionaires from the scratch off prizes awarded. **Van Davis's Chair Yoga session and Cate Berridge's stretching session were each a great break** from sitting in chairs at the tables. Everyone created beautiful framed dried flower pictures to take home to remind them God has asked us to love our neighbors. **Thank you to everyone that made soups for our Friday dinner. The soups were a huge hit with everyone.**

Mission Waco (Toy Store, Creekside Village and World Cup Fair Trade Market), Friends for Life, Caritas, Isaiah 117 House, Meals on Wheels, and Living Water International each provided information on how we can show love to our neighbors. **If you are interested in more information on any of the organizations that participated in our retreat, each has a website available.**

A special thank you to everyone who brought clothes and shoes for the Isaiah 117 House. This is a wonderful organization that **exists to provide loving emotional support for children entering the foster care** system. Isaiah 117 House has just introduced ***God In The Daily***, a 52 week devotional by Ronda Paulson the creator of Isaiah 117 House. As Ronda says "what if you could recognize God's fingerprints in the middle of your ordinary life? Through honest stories, Scripture, reflection, laughter, and hope, ***God In The Daily*** **invites you to slow down, look up and notice that God is already present in the beautiful, messy moments of everyday life." This devotional will be available November 3rd.**





Please make sure to **mark your calendars for Sunday, December 6th**, for our **annual called congregational meeting**. **We** will be reviewing the proposed spending plan for 2027, and **ask for all our congregation members to plan on attending**.





Sunday School Continues After Worship

- The **Preschool Class** will be studying the Book of Genesis: The Creation, Noah's Ark, and Abraham.
- The **Elementary Class** will study The Word Is Preached from Bible Stories about Joash, Jonah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Esther, and Nehemiah.
- The **High School through Adult Class**--Join us on Sundays for an **intergenerational study** on the book "by heart" **Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism**. Grab a coffee, soda, a friend or family member and meet in the back room, follow the signs. Luther's Small Catechism always included the 10 Commandments, Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer and builds on what Luther calls the foundations of faith. We will answer questions and discuss Luther's teaching so that when someone asks, you can confidently state why you are Lutheran. **Books will be available for purchase ($18.00) or loan from the church. Please let Eric or Nancy know if you would like a book.**



Art As Worship

Save the date for Art as Worship! Our 16th annual art exhibit will be **opening on Saturday, November 7 from 6:30-9:00 p.m.** There will be yummy food, live music, and amazing new art responding to the **theme of REST**. If you have any questions, contact Jeanne Dittmann or DeAnna Toten Beard or go to the **Fine Arts Ministry website**.





Faith in Film

Our film for November will meet **Saturday, November 13th** at **6:00 p.m.** at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in the fellowship hall. We will be viewing the film **Ratatouille, and sign up is on the podium!**



Coffee Fellowship is November 21st

Our November coffee fellowship will be meeting at a new location! **We will be** meeting on **Saturday, November 21st from 1:00 p.m.--3:00 p.m. at Starbucks in China Springs,** located at **9401 China Spring Road**, Waco, Tx .



Fellowship for Single Women

Fellowship for Single Women will be meeting **on Tuesday, November 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)

Lutefisk is December 5th

It's almost that time of year again - LUTEFISK! This year's event is **Saturday, December 5th** at Cranfills Gap for the **6:00 p.m.** serving. For those who would like we'll meet at the church and carpool. There is a signup sheet at the back of the church or contact Michael Frey.

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.

St. Matthew 75th Anniversary Podcast

Next year in 2027, St. Matthew Lutheran Church turns 75! In getting ready for this momentous celebration, Pastor Austin is preparing to host a podcast in which St. Matthew members are interviewed about their experience with St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

Anyone is invited to participate, in sharing memories of St. Matthew. Whether you have been at St. Matthew for a month or for many years, we want to hear your stories! If you would be interested in being interviewed for the podcast, please sign up on the podium.

If you have any questions, contact Pastor Austin.



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.



Looking for a place to get involved:

St. Matthew Choir meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to be a part of the St. Matthew Choir. If you would like to know more about the choir and its plans for the fall, please see Sha Towers.

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:



Jean Moeller, Stephanie Partin, Tammy Vickery, Sharon Peterson, Farrel Bolte, Florence Anderson, Denise Self, Arlene Schwarz, Leeana Bond, Kathy Nordt, Ann Pierson, George Ahrens, Linda Stanford, Carolyn van Auken, Lauren Roller, and Linda Vergamini.

Those for whom prayer is requested:



Elizabeth Dale, John Woods, Michael Puig, Dora Torres, Hadley Harrison, Mel Becker, Natalie Lindstrom (Beth Pristash)
Brian Thomas, Lauren Roller, Rodney & Kim Roller, Amy Roberts, Jay Edgecomb Dave Hughes, Tomm & Carolyn Ryan (Terry Roller)
Jimmy Moore, Harold Strand, Sandy Peterson Penny Reese (Ross & Kim Browne)
Wanda Stanford, Cory Stanford, Jacen Stanford (Linda Stanford)
Curtis Forrester (Bill & Diane Jones)
Frank Simons, Ruthie Simons, Kris Braswell, (Colleen Early)
Amy Blake, Amanda & Michael Witherspoon (Meridith Sellers)
Bryan, and Zoe Cruse (Lee & Marilyn Cruse)
"Red" Tiner Kathy Coleman, Nancy Hensel, Shelia, Mary Lou Borries
(Del & Sue Hensel)
Nancy Lynch, Mary Chapa, Steve Mosley (Paula Jenson)
Werner and Gert Gstattenbauer (Roger & Betty Fornelius)
Bell Hutchings, Robbie Rash, Laura Floyd, Maisy Smith, Alisha Lee, O.C. Beasley Morgan Breedlove (Mary Herring)
Lambring & Collander Families, Ali Family, Barry Bowlin & Family, Ranessa Grant (Maggie Lambring)
Reba Widmer, Roland & Sharon Krienke (Teresa Bancale)
Todd Butts (Bancale & Krienke Families)
Jose Sanchez (Nancy & Larry Zelisko)

Bryanna & Caleb Orta, Bryan (Kay Wallace)
Amy Siller (Edna Dietrich)
Noel Jones (Janice Jones)
The Family of Troy Minnick (Bradley Linda)
Jim Lawson (Sharon & Lyle Gripp)
Ron Martin, Hunter Solis (Karen Mullens)
Norm Fulmer (Mike & Vicki Bernhardt)
David Vanderkinter (Roxann White)
Joshua Knudson (Carol Linda)
Anna Hansen (Pat McCord)
Dr. Charles Simpson (Helen Henrichs)
Jose Rodriguez (Pilar Rodriguez-Larson)

November Birthdays

Melody Lee	11/01
Lyle Gripp	11/02
Terry Roller	11/05
Ziggy Sellers	11/06
Garrison Nordt	11/10
Gracie Beard	11/14
Aaron Jasek	11/14
Hope Cotner	11/16
Lee Cruse	11/18
Barbara Johnson	11/18
Tim Pristash	11/23
Stacey Vanderkinter	11/24

November Anniversaries

Clay & Meridith Sellers	11/08
Jason & Teresa Umberger	11/10
Bobby & Donna Zimmerman	11/10



Our **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!



◄ Oct 2026

November 2026

Dec 2026 ►

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5** 10:00am Ridgecrest Service 11:30am *Deanery*	**6** 9:00am Quilters	**7** 6:30pm Art as Worship
8 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	**9**	**10** 10:00am Circle of Faith 6:30pm – 8:30pm Women who Work	**11**	**12**	**13** 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm Faith in Film	**14** 9:00am-Noon *Calligraphy Guild*
15 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	**16**	**17** 11:00am-4:00pm *Domino (42) Group*	**18**	**19** 9:00am Property Committee Work Morning	**20** 9:00am Quilters	**21** 1:00pm-3:00pm Coffee Fellowship @ Starbucks (China Springs)
22 9:30am Thanksgiving Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	**23** 6:00pm Property Commitee	**24** 10:00am Fellowship for Single Women	**25**	**26**	**27** 9:00am Quilters	**28**
29 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday Learning	**30**					