

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

July 2025

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Finance Update

The balance in the checking account at the end of May was \$229,046.25



W-ELCA

***WE JOYFULLY WELCOME THE FIRST
LUTHERAN LADIES INTO OUR CHURCH
COMMUNITY.***

Circle News

A huge thank you to Pastor Austin for leading our June Bible study. Please remember Circle Bible Study **will be starting back in September. We will combine our three Circles into one Circle that will meet on a Tuesday at 10:00am.** Specific dates will be provided.

We are excited that Nancy Zelisko will lead each Bible study. She will provide a list of material for us to consider instead of The Gather magazine. It was suggested we choose a name for our new combined Circle. Please bring your suggestions to **our August General Meeting** where, as a group, we can select our new name.

Helping Our Community

Kindness makes the world a better place. Acts of kindness can uplift your spirit in so many ways, as does being compassionate, generous and considerate. Being **kind** is all about your genuine intentions to help everyone around you feel safe, comfortable and understood. It's about giving without expecting anything in return. A smile to lighten up someone's day when they seem down or troubled is a powerful gift you can offer them. Your smile can be the reason that person smiles. And, as the smiles are passed along, the world becomes a happier place. **Your acts of kindness shine brightly as you support our Blessing Box, the Caritas food pantry, the Meals On Wheels Pet Food Pantry and the Mission Waco Christmas Toy Store.**

During the summer months the **Blessing Box** is especially in need of donations. Our Blessing Box helps many of the people in our area who are having a difficult time. Please remember them when you are shopping and add a few items to your grocery basket. During the hot months of summer, bottled water or energy type drinks are a great addition to the Blessing Box for our neighbors in need. They are extremely grateful for your **kindness**.



Please continue to include a **food item to donate to Caritas** as part of your Circle offering. Our Caritas donations 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 Pet Food Pantry is a **newly added benefit** provided to Meals On Wheels participants. As the meals are delivered, the Meals On Wheels volunteer visits and determines if there is a need for pet food. Currently, 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 Food Pantry is dependent on donations. Items that are needed include cat food, cat litter, small dog food, regular-size dog food and pet treats and toys. Dry pet food is preferred but canned food is welcome. At Christmas time pet toys are also distributed. If you would like to **donate pet food or pet toys**, please place your donations in the 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.

Mission Waco Christmas Toy Store

The days speed by so quickly and Christmas is suddenly just around the corner. This will be our third year to participate in the Mission Waco Christmas Toy Store charity event. The holiday season can be a stressful time for many low-income families. Shopping for presents seems to be an insurmountable task, even for those who can afford it. To alleviate this pressure and simplify the gift search, Mission Waco partners with parents in providing Christmas presents to their children at an affordable cost.

Operating the first weekend of December, the volunteer-run Christmas Toy Store gives parents the opportunity to purchase brand new toys and gifts at an 80% discount off the retail price. Each year, the Toy Store serves over 500 parents in Waco, which amounts to over 2,000 children! Parents select high quality, affordable gifts for their children, which are expertly wrapped by our jolly volunteers.



St Matthew will be having **TWO** toy donation opportunities – Christmas in July and again in October/November. This will help you shop the toy sales so your dollar buys more toys. Donations of new toys and gift items are

needed for children, ages infant through 10 years old. Please leave the price tag on the toy and do not wrap the toy. A list of suggested toys will be provided to you but feel free to donate any toy except toys imitating weapons.

The store is open the first weekend of December. If you would like to be one of the volunteers helping Mission Waco with this amazingly wonderful charity, information will be made available describing the volunteer jobs. This is truly a wonderful charity that brings joy to so many Waco families.

**August General Meeting**

Please plan to attend the **August General Meeting on August 16 at 10:30**. In addition to our **business meeting**, we will enjoy a **great lunch** of a variety of salads and desserts and a **presentation** by one of our members. More information will be available at a later date.

**Church Office Closed July 4th**

The church office will be closed on **July 4th** in observance of the Independence Day holiday. If there is a pastoral emergency, please call the church office and follow the prompts.

**Ridgecrest Service July 2nd**

Pastor Austin will be leading a worship & communion service at **Ridgecrest Retirement & Healthcare** (1900 W Hwy 6, Waco, Tx 76712) on **July 2nd at 10:00am**. **All congregation members are welcome to attend.**

**The Return of the Prodigal Son
by Henri Nouwen Book Study**

Starting July 2 we will have summer book study and will be reading and discussing the book **The Return of the Prodigal Son**. **We will meet in the Youth Room/Bible Study Room at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and August 6 and 13**. If you are interested in attending **please sign up** on the Book Study list located on the stand outside of the sanctuary.



women's
fellowship

Fellowship for Single Women

Fellowship for Single Women will be meeting **on July 22nd 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)

**Did You Know?**

That you can fill out an attendance card online? Scan the QR code at the front of the bulletin.

That you can use your phone or electronic device to view the Sunday Worship bulletin?

That St. Matthew has a new website? Check it out: www.stmattwaco.org



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.

Pastor Austin's Updated Hours

Pastor Austin has officially become our contract pastor and has moved to full-time hours. **Pastor Austin will be at the church office Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Pastor Austin can also be contacted through the church office or by email at pastoraustin@stmattwaco.org.



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.

Updating our 2025 Congregation Directory

Copies of the most current version of our directory, including the new members we will welcome this Sunday, are available in the gathering area. We welcome everyone to take a copy and ask that all members review their information and inform the church office if any corrections or updates are needed.



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.



QUILTING GROUP

Meals on Wheels Fundraiser



Meals on Wheels is holding a **fundraiser on July 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** in partnership with **Jason's Deli**, where if you **use the code FUN20**, 20% of your purchase will be given to Meals on Wheels.

Christmas in July

The days speed by so quickly and Christmas is suddenly just around the corner. This will be our third year to participate in the Mission Waco Christmas Toy Store event. **The holiday season can be a stressful time for many low-income families.** Shopping for presents seems to be an insurmountable task, even for those who can afford it. To alleviate this pressure and simplify the gift search, **Mission Waco partners with parents** in providing Christmas presents to their children at an affordable cost.



St Matthew will be having TWO toy donation opportunities – Christmas in July (entire month of July) and again in October/November. This will help you shop the toy sales so your dollar buys more toys. Donations of **new toys**, all types of toys large and small **except weapon style toys**, are needed for children ages infant through 10 years old. **Please leave the price tag on** your unwrapped toy donations and just drop the toys off at our Christmas Toy Store area here at church.

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, Helen Henrichs, Barbara Johnson, Corey Heidt, and Arlene Schwarz.

**Those for whom prayer is requested:**

Elizabeth Dale, John Woods, Michael Puig, Dora Torres (Beth Pristash)
Rodney Roller, James Hurst, Janice Byrd, Rich Buckner, Tony Knoss, Larry Burgin (Terry Roller)
Jimmy Moore, Harold Strand, Joy Peterson (Ross & Kim Browne)
Wanda Stanford, Cory Stanford, Jacen Stanford, Kathryn Medford (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)
Renlee Montgomery, the Montgomery family (Marcyl Howell)
Bryan, and Zoe Cruse (Lee & Marilyn Cruse)
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 Gstatenbauer, Werner Gstatenbauer (Roger & Betty Fornelius)
Robin Waite (Billie Hueske)
Dylan James Tristian Smith (Teresa Umberger)
Joann Bottoms, Darlene Gemath (Mary Herring)
Joyce Schneider (Shelly Jasek)
Lambring & Collander Families (Maggie Lambring)
Reba Widmer, Roland & Sharon Krienke (Teresa Bancale)

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.



July Birthdays

Jeanne Dittmann	7/02
Mary Herring	7/04
Michael Frey, IV	7/05
Steve Mullens	7/07
Kim Browne	7/08
John Taylor	7/09
Philip Van Auken	7/10
LuDean Bruer	7/10
Aaron Gustafson	7/11
Karen Curtis	7/12
Jaina Stanford	7/12
Laura Bond	7/13
Linda Heyde	7/14
Edna Dietrich	7/16
Ashley Jenson	7/18
Roxann White	7/18
Victor Larson	7/23
Jessica Bancale	7/24
Farrel Bolte	7/26
Marcyl Howell	7/26
Tye Stanford	7/28

**July Anniversaries**

Steve & Karen Mullens	7/26
Robert & Hope Cotner	7/28

The **monthly newsletter deadline** is the **3rd Sunday**
of each month. Please send

Newsletter

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!