

1st Quarter 2015

The Herald 2015

Join us....

- 8:00 a.m. And 10:45 a.m. Worship Every Sunday
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children and Bible Study for Adults

Looking forward to another wonderful year

The year has come to a close and we look forward with anticipation towards 2015.

2014 was a year of great accomplishment and progress in our church. We saw construction transform the front of our sanctuary with repair and new landscaping. A very special thank you needs to be bestowed on Bill Nicksch and Mark McMillen for their patient efforts in making the construction flow as smoothly as possible.

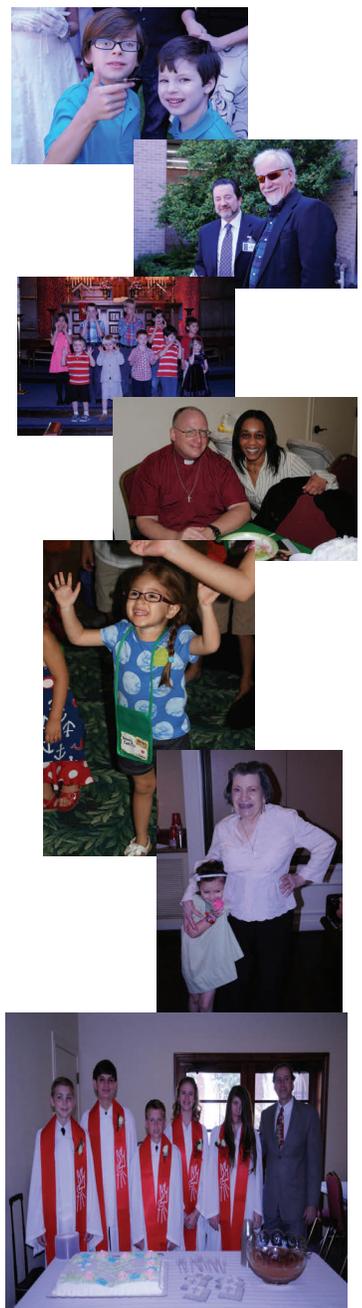
We lost many friends this year but have had the privilege of bringing new friends into the family. It is such a beautiful

sound to hear the way the new members have participated in making our church grow in spirit and vision. We welcome everyone who has come to St. Matthew in 2014 with open arms.

As always, we had a spectacular Church picnic, Chili Cook-off, Easter celebration and Christmas season. What a heart this church has for serving each other and the community.

Pastor Wiesenborn celebrated his 10th year at St. Matthew leading our congregation. We are so thankful for all your efforts.

Have a blessed 2015!



Stamps for Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran WORLD Relief sends care packages anywhere in the WORLD where such supplies are needed. To help defray shipping charges the LWML of Texas members sell stamps to collectors (philatelists). You have been receiving mail with special commemorative and regular stamps during the holidays. Commemorative stamps receive a higher price, so they are more prized.

Stamps can be brought still on the envelope, or if you decide to trim them off, please leave a one-quarter rim around the stamp. This helps the collectors remove them more easily from the paper.

There is a special plastic box on the shelf in the Elder's area in the office hallway. Your contributions are greatly appreciated, and special blessings to you for your efforts. -Evelyn Gamer



Women's Ministry

Women's Ministries had an active year with several new ladies joining the group. We took a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts to enjoy the Houghton Hall Exhibit. We have many wonderful devotional presentations and excellent fellowship time. Our November cookie exchange was a huge success and our Blessing Baskets for the

Homebound ministry is underway.

The Women's Ministry will meet on the third Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Childcare will be provided

SMLC Book Club

The next meeting of the St. Matthew book club is Friday, March 27 at the home of the Johnson's. The book to be discussed is "The Aviator's Wife" by Melanie Benjamin. We had a very robust discussion at our last meeting about the "A Year of Living Biblically".

These meetings are an opportunity to get to know others at the church and also have been interesting discussions about various views and opinions of our reading. If you want to attend and be added to the distribution list, contact Elizabeth DelBosque at EDelBosque@mdanderson.org. We hope you can join us!!

Friday Night Tango Class

First Friday Night Tango Dance Class of 2015 will start on January 9, at 7:00 p.m. and will last until 9:00 pm.

Martin and Natia are ready to teach us new steps.

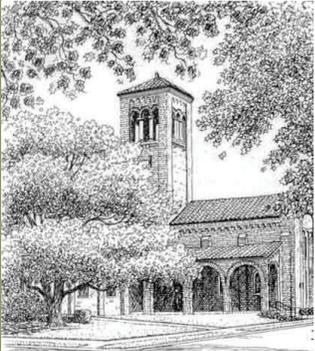
Class schedule:

January 23 and 30.

February 6, 13, 20 and 27.

No partner is required. Come and join us. It is fun!!

Children's Christmas Program



Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas performances possible.



*We will be having a
Congregational
Meeting on January
25th during the
Sunday School Hour.
Please attend this
important meeting.*

Eagle Project

THIS UPCOMING SPRING WILL HOLD THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF CHANDLER HALL'S BOY SCOUT EAGLE PROJECT, BUT HE WANTS YOUR HELP - NOW! SIGN UP TO RECEIVE AWESOME EMAIL UPDATES CONCERNING HIS PROJECT. DON'T WORRY- IT'S NOT A VOLUNTEER/LABOR SIGN UP LIST - HE JUST WANTS TO KEEP YOU IN THE LOOP. PLANNING IS IMPORTANT, AND CHANDLER WANTS YOU TO BE WITH HIM THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS. TRANS-

PARENCY IS A CRUCIAL PART OF THIS PROJECT, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT CONCERNS YOUR FACILITY AND FINANCES.

...BUT WHAT IS THIS PROJECT?

IN SHORT, WE ARE REPLACING THE WOODEN COURTYARD FENCE, BUT THE ENTIRE PROJECT IS ACTUALLY MUCH MORE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK CHANDLER HALL IN PERSON OR THROUGH EMAIL AT [chan-](mailto:chandler.hall.866@gmail.com)

[dler.hall.866@gmail.com](mailto:chandler.hall.866@gmail.com).
TO RECEIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PROJECT, SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES AT THE KIOSK LOCATED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OR AT THE FANNIN STREET ENTRANCE.
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR SIGNING UP TO RECEIVE THE AWESOME EMAIL UPDATES!
YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL IN MAKING THE PROJECT A SUCCESS!

Thank you, Mickey!

Thank you, Mickey Phoenix for the beautiful flowers in the Courtyard!



Choir Program 2014



The 2015 Chili Cookoff will be held on February 1st at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please refer to your weekly bulletins for more information.



A Beautiful Christmas Concert by Brenda Johnson

Many thanks to Sean, Kelly and the entire St. Matthew Choir for the lovely Christmas Concert on December 7! What an amazing performance! When I gave Sean a hug and expressing my thanks for the beautiful music, he said he had been wanting to do this performance for several years and felt like the choir was now ready.. and it was lovely. Phyllis Fridell sat behind me and when we chatted about the lovely music she said "I felt God's pres-

ence during the concert."

The wonderful performances of the choir don't "just happen". My husband is in the choir and they practice typically once a week. This special Christmas concert took a lot of effort by Sean, Kelly and all members of the Choir.

Thanks for adding to the enjoyment of our worship!!



2015 Chili Cook-off!

Save the date! Sunday, February 1 at noon – Super Bowl Sunday Pregame Dinner. Enter a batch of Chili to be this year's winner, or just come to enjoy the food and fellowship!

Souper Bowl of Caring

The youth of St. Matthew will again support this program by sponsoring a door offering to benefit Covenant House Sunday, February 1 - **Super Bowl Sunday**. You may also place an offering in your envelope on any Sunday before February 1 – Make your checks payable to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, but be sure to designate it for the Souper Bowl of Caring! Covenant House provides housing and assistance for teens who are displaced and homeless. We appreciate your support of our youth and their projects.

Water to Thrive

Success! We raised \$5,000 for Water to Thrive in 2014! Thank you to everyone who donated to this wonderful cause.

We will keep you updated as we get more information.

“Donuts... a Lutheran Tradition”

By Brenda Johnson at the suggestion of Fern Basden

I am writing this article at the suggestion of lovely Fern Basden. A few weeks ago, Fern emailed Lisa Hammel and me and suggested we write an article about the donuts that are provided at church during fellowship time. She wanted us to talk about how “magically the donuts” show up at the church, how dependable the donut providers are (*most of the time.... You guys know who we are talking about*) and MOST of all to thank the donut providers for what they do. OK Fern, here goes...

When I first started attending St. Matthew I have to admit I was a bit shocked at the donuts during fellowship time as well as only having caffeinated coffee. Although, I definitely have eaten a donut or two in life (BTW, my personal preference is apple fritters) I thought perhaps with the huge push for health living that perhaps church congregations “had moved on to healthier choices”. But they had not! While I was a bit shocked, Rob was in hog heaven (or should I say donut heaven).

We joined the church at the same time as the Hammels and were in the same new member class along with the Garretts and the McMillens. Lisa and I early on tried to change the tradition by bringing home made muffins but those went over like a lead balloon. People asked “Where are the donuts? Who forgot to bring the donuts?” *Editor’s Note: While doing some investigation for this article, Marian Meyer told me that Melanie Feusse did occasionally make homemade pound bread and it was well received. Lisa, let’s discuss soon!* I am proud to state that despite the muffin failure, Lisa and I were successful to adding decaffeinated coffee and tea as choices for a beverage. Yes!!!

Ok, back to Fern’s request. *How do those donuts appear?* There was an organization in the church called the “Couples Club” which changed its name about sevenish years ago to “The Fellowship Club” to be more inclusive of people that might not be a couple. I talked to several long time members and I was told that the Couples Club started the tradition of brining donuts on Sundays. (*If anyone knows anything different, please let me know.*) Members of the Couples Club volunteered to bring donuts to church every Sunday. A formal schedule was created and published. The member purchases donuts with their own monies and bring to the church for people to eat and enjoy while having fellowship with others. The donuts must be there by 9 AM. Another obligation of the person that brings the donuts is that they also must clean the coffee pots. This must occur before the late service. I am fortunate that my husband helps me with this. No, comment Mark McMillen. With the rebranding of the Couples Club to the Fellowship Club, now anyone in the church can sign up to bring donuts. Fern wanted to make sure that I thank everyone for this act of service. Your generosity and keeping up this wonderful tradition is very much appreciated by those that attend St Matthew.



Now more about the brands of donuts. There is a bit of competition as to who brings the “best donuts”. When Krispy Kreme was in Houston, we would always bring Krispy Kreme – those were our favorites! Rob now brings donuts from a small shop called Christies in Montrose which he says are the best donuts in town. Most members bring donuts from Shipley’s due the close location to the church.

We occasionally have had an issue of people not putting in their donation for their donut and coffee. The current recommended donation is \$1 for a cup of coffee and a donut. We had “gentle” reminders in previous Herald editions. This is not to scold people that cannot afford the donation – but if you have the means please throw a dollar in the donation basket. Marla Niksch shared with me that when Bill was the congregation President; her sons thought they could eat donuts for free since their dad was the Church President. Not!!! Another bit of information that many may not know. The donations for the coffee and donuts go to the Fellowship Club. These monies are used for special projects for the church and events of the Fellowship Club. Doug Hammel will attest that this is a very good revenue stream for the church.

Like any good writer, I did some Internet searches to see if there was any history regarding Lutherans donuts. I didn’t find anything specifically but here are a few excerpts from Garrison Keillor’s article “Singing with the Lutherans” that I thought might be interesting.

I have made fun of Lutherans for years – who wouldn’t, if you lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn.

We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese (Editor’s comment....disappointed he didn’t say donuts).

Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.

Lutherans are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.

And finally, you know you’re a Lutheran when:

- It’s 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service;
- **Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee; My favorite!!**
- The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight;
- And lastly, it takes 15 minutes to say, ‘Good-bye.’ So next service go a few minutes early, head to the Fellowship Hall, grab a cup of coffee (decaffeinated preferably) and a donut, sit down with someone you don’t know very well and strike up a conversation! That is the magic behind the donuts - to promote Christian fellowship.

Many thanks to Fern for suggesting this article!



ST MATTHEW LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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We would like to invite you to worship with us.

We pray that St. Matthew can be a place where you can develop relationships that are supportive and encouraging in your daily life, as together we grow in faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The people of St. Matthew Lutheran Church seek to encourage individuals, couples, and families through worship, prayer, counseling, educations, Bible study, and special events.

Come join our church family.

Phone: 713.526.5731

Fax: 713.524.1709

Email: ofcmgr@stmatthewhouston.org

Visit our website: www.stmatthewhouston.org

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Mark Wiesenborn

Organist: Kelly DeVany

Choir Director: Sean Saunders

Business Administrator: Robyn Albright