



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Herald

2nd Quarter

2014

Volume 8, Issue 2

Upcoming Events

APRIL

Sunday, April 13—Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 17—Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 18—Good Friday

Sunday, April 20—Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 27—Houston Children's
Chorus in Late Service

MAY

Friday, May 2—Wine & Cheese Party

Sunday, May 4—Spring Lunch &
Garden Lecture

Friday, May 16—Book Club

Saturday, May 17—Men's Ministry &
Women's Ministry

Sunday, May 18—Confirmation

JUNE

Friday, June 13—AD Players

Saturday, June 21—Men's Ministry &
Women's Ministry



Rick and Kelli Graham recently lost their little girl, affectionately called Baby Grace. Baby Grace passed away at 98 days old from complications of a staph infection. You may remember Pastor mentioning Grace in his prayer list each Sunday. Rick is Marty Graham's grandson and Ad and Johanna Graham's nephew. Rick and Kelli's daughter, Addison Gothard (13), wrote a poem about the passing of her baby sister that the Graham family wanted to share. It is a lovely tribute to her baby sister.



Amazing Gracie

I see her in my little sister, Kati.
Such Innocence,
And Beauty.

I see her in my mother.
Such Bravery,
And Love.

I see her in my father.
A built wall of toughness,
But if you look,
Truly look,
Through those big beautiful eyes,
You'll find a heart,
Overflowing with Love and Compassion.

I see her in the sparkling dark blue waters.
The color I always
IMAGINED
Her eyes to be.

I see her in myself.
Dark brown hair,
A broken heart stitched together by a person,
Sent from heaven,
And a hand,
Just wanting to be held.

I see her in my dreams.
Playing in the sand on a beautiful beach,
With dark blue waters,
Splashing in the water with Me and Kati,
Like she should be able to.

I see her.
In Heaven,
Wrapped in the arms of the Lord.

I feel her.
In my heart,
In me.
My beautiful
Amazing
Gracie Lee.



Fellowship Club Wine & Cheese Party

Friday, May 2 at 7:00 PM at the home of Kirtley and Paul Born, 3503 Broadmead Dr., Houston, TX 77025. Phone: 713.218.0001. Mark your calendars now - don't miss this annual, fun event! Watch the announcements for further details as the date gets closer.



AD Players

"Over the River and Through the Woods", Friday, June 13 at 8pm, must arrive by 7:30pm. Tickets are \$22.00 each and we have 20 seats reserved. For reservations, call Marty Graham, 713-664-9331. The play is a comedy about a family including grandparents. Call to reserve your tickets ASAP! Payment will be due June 1.



FOUNDATION REPAIR AND NEW MAIN STREET ENTRANCE

The foundation work and front entrance replacement project has been underway. That is the reason for the closed entrances and inconveniences everyone has endured for the past several months. The project is going well, with the foundation membrane in place, and the concrete work complete. The remaining work will be mostly masonry work, redoing the damaged arches on the Prospect side and the brick pavers on the new front entrance. We have hit a bit of a delay in getting bricklayers for our work, the Houston construction market is heating up and this is a consequence. Our contractor is on track to man the project and the masonry work is projected to be complete before Easter. The remaining work will be lighting, completing our new Main Street signage, and landscaping.

We will need to wait 6-12 months after this membrane is in place before we can begin some interior repairs needed due to the settlement we have experienced. This will be a separate project which will be covered in future congregation meetings.

REPLACEMENT OF SANCTUARY AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM TO BEGIN SHORTLY

The replacement of the primary air conditioning condensing unit in our courtyard, and the large air handling unit in the basement which serve 2/3 of our Sanctuary has been completed. We are ready for the summer heat with new equipment. We are expecting a reduction in our electricity bill by using a new, much more efficient unit. We are hopeful to not experience air conditioning outages in the Sanctuary, as we have had several in the past and the anticipation of many more with outdated and worn out equipment. We appreciate your patience for the several Sundays we did not have the boilers working properly and experienced colder than average temperatures in the Sanctuary, particularly in the early service. The project went well, and we hope to have many years of air conditioned comfort from this new equipment in our future



Did you guess who?



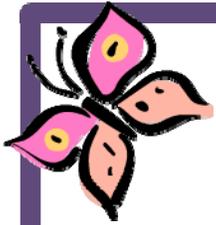
Johanne and

Ad Graham



Can you guess this one?





Easter Sunday, April 20th

Schedule of Activities:



- **7:30 Easter Sunrise Service with Communion** Join us in worship as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with special music including trumpet, tympani percussion, and choir.
- **9:00 Breakfast** – Breakfast will be served by the youth of the congregation. Proceeds will go towards the **2016 National LCMS Youth Gathering**.
- **9:45 Easter Craft and Activities** – ALL Children are invited to Sunday School room 103 for crafts and activities while waiting for their turn to hunt for eggs. This activity will be supervised, but parents are welcome to join us!
- **10:00 Egg Hunt Group 1 (K-4)** – The older children will hunt for eggs first so that they can help hide eggs for the younger group to follow. Older children are asked to help the younger group once their hunt is over.
- **10:15 Egg Hunt Group 2 (Toddler –PreK)** – The younger children are in the second group so that eggs can be hidden in easier places to find without the older children finding them first and risking running over the little ones in their enthusiasm.
- **10:30 Butterfly Release** – Once the children are finished hunting for eggs, we will meet in the courtyard for the butterfly release. Everyone who wants to participate will be given a live butterfly in an envelope. After a brief devotion, we will open the envelopes and release the butterflies!
- **10:45 Easter Celebration Worship Service** – Join us in worship as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with special music including trumpet, tympani percussion, and choir.



The St. Matthew Family Continues to Grow!

On March 2, 2014, Colin Thomas Adkins was baptized. He is the firstborn child of members, Cade and Amanda Adkins and was born on December 9, 2013. Pictured below to right, from left to right, sponsors, Nick & Kristah Woolley, Amanda, Colin & Cade Adkins, behind the proud parents, Pastor Wiesenborn. Offset, Colin Thomas Adkins.



On March 9, 2014, several adults were officially received into membership at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Claude Perez, Jr., who has been attending the early service for quite some time, and Chris & Shelley Solcher, who have been attending the late service for quite some time. On Mother's Day, May 11th, the Solcher's children, Jack & Allie will both be baptized in the late service! The Solcher Family is pictured above to the left.

On March 16, 2014, Vivian Marie Yancey was baptized. She is the daughter of Donovan & Julie Yancey and little sister to Donovan, Jr. & Evelyn. Vivian was born on February 18, 2014.

There is another baptism scheduled for May 4, 2014. Syllas Brody Smith, known as Brody, will be baptized. Brody is the grandchild of members, Carol & Roger Smith, Nephew of Sarah & Rolando "Butter" DeLaGarza, and cousin of Bruce & Rolando DeLaGarza. Brian & Kellie Smith are his parents. Brody is seen here with dad, Brian.





Spring Lunch and Garden Lecture Sunday, May 4th after late service, featuring local garden expert, Matt Raney. Mr. Raney will present tips and ideas to keep your yard and garden looking in top form this spring and summer. He will have props and visual aids and will have his book on hand for purchase. He will also answer those nagging questions you might have. The **MORE board** will be serving lunch. Everyone is encouraged to attend for fun and fellowship! (Freewill offering)



The MORE board, in conjunction with VBS, has adopted Water to Thrive as a Mission Project for St. Matthew. Water to Thrive may seem familiar to some of you. We have worked with and for them in the past. Here is a little information about them.

WHAT IS WATER TO THRIVE? In 2007, a small bible study group in Austin, Texas wanted to help address the global water crisis. The members of the group decided to raise \$5,000—enough money for one clean water well in Ethiopia. When they finished their fundraiser, they had collected enough money for TWELVE wells. **WHAT IS THE MISSION?** Water to Thrive is a faith-based, non profit dedicated to the mission of bringing clean, safe water to those who need it in rural Africa. They work with donors in the United States and implementing partners in Africa to bring lasting change. **WHAT HAS ST. MATTHEW DONE?** St. Matthew has partnered with the Houston Thrivent Chapter in the past to build a well in Tigray, Ethiopia in the district of Hintalo. The project serves useable water to a community of 565 members. Over the next year or so, the MORE board, and the VBS program will be sponsoring another full water project. For a full well we need to raise \$5,000. Water to Thrive encourages full project sponsorship because full project sponsors receive photos and information about the location of the project and the number of people served, as well as the naming rights to the sign at your water point. But 100% of the money from any campaign that raises over \$1,000 will go directly to water projects.



Many of you remember Jennifer and Matthew Babisak and their three children - Caleb, Maddie, and Esther, who were members of St. Matthew and recently moved to Dallas, Texas. One of our members saw the above photo and article in the La Grange newspaper. Jennifer is now a travel editor for the Dallas Morning News. Congratulations to Jennifer and the entire Babisak family! It is amazing to see how their children have grown!

Dallas Morning News Travel Piece on LG



Dallas Morning News travel writer Jennifer Babisak, in orange above, was in town with her husband and three children writing an article to appear in that newspaper's Sunday travel section later this year about La Grange. The Babisaks are shown above about to have breakfast with Jerry and Pat Schmidt, owners of the Big Tin Flag Bed and Breakfast near Hostyn, before embarking on their Saturday adventures in La Grange.

Photo by Jeff Wick

Jesus' Love Is One-of-a-Kind!



Save the Date!

The fun starts on Sunday, July 13th and goes through Thursday, July 17th!

At **Weird Animals VBS**, kids discover that Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind. **Weird Animals** is a habitat filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see,

hear, touch, and even taste! Team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the stand-out activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life – something we call God Sightings. We will also participate in a hands-on mission project, through a program called **Water to Thrive**, that will let the kids in our community show God's love by providing water for children in Africa.



Be a part of the Herald!!

Take advantage of the opportunity to make announcements, publicize an event, tell a story or whatever else you feel is newsworthy.

Send information to:

Brenda Johnson-Brenda.schroeder06@sbcglobal.net

Lisa Hammel-lkhammel@comcast.net

OR place your article in the Herald mailbox in the back of the church.



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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