

Mission: The Care Team Ministry lives God's Love by intentionally caring for, supporting, and connecting with the members of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Care Connection MINUTES

May 3, 2022

Present: Pastor Steve Mahaffey, Deacon Lindsay Bailey, Brenda Disbrow, Sandy Andrews, Melanie Brown, Lisa and John Burke, Melody and Todd Costello, Joyce Davis, Jill and Bill Heck, Beth and Scott Johnson, Kristine Neate, Corey Nururer, Cindy Rickly, Jan Sullivan, Jean Waite, and Barb Woodard.

Those unable to attend: Mary Dunham, Emily Faust, Christy Gabler, Heather Haycook, Diane Hulvey, Fran Koenig, Janelle Shook, Kristin and Martha Weight

Beth Johnson opened the evening with prayer at 6:00 p.m. A meal immediately followed.

As the meal progressed, we welcomed Pastor Steve to St. Matthew and shared our enthusiasm about partnering in ministry with him. After individually introducing ourselves, Lisa Burke presented Pastor Steve with a welcome basket from the Care Connection, containing Medina-themed gifts.

Brenda Disbrow, our Parish Nurse, was welcomed back to her ministry at St. Matthew, as her health has been restored following her car accident. Brenda shared how she can be of service to our parishioners. If we have members on our Care Team lists who need Brenda's services, we should feel comfortable asking the member's permission to refer them to Brenda. St. Matthew does have medical equipment available for sharing (walkers, commodes, transport chairs, etc.)

Our guest speaker, Barb Woodard, was introduced. In addition to being a part of the Care Connection, Barb has a history of involvement at St. Matthew (Executive Council, Prayer Group leader, LGL Samaritan Fund, Church secretary and Stephen Minister, to mention a few). In her talk about *Telecaring and Boundaries*, she led a group discussion about our service as the Care Connection. She began with "Why did the Care Connection begin?" Deacon Lindsay, Jill Heck, and John Burke gave background to the fact that many in our church family have fallen through the cracks or have stopped participating in the life of the church (heightened by Covid). There was a definite need to intentionally care for, support, and connect with all members of St. Matthew. John referred to the Continuing Resolutions and Goals and Strategies that were approved by the Executive Council in 2020:

Congregational Life Goals and Strategies 1) Enhance and Strengthen our spiritual growth and relationships with God and each other a) Establish a Shepherding Team to: i) Identify individual member's spiritual gifts to achieve greater congregational involvement ii) Share these gifts with 5 Star Ministry Teams and Church Staff so members can be contacted and invited to utilize and share their gifts b) Refine a system for tracking active/inactive members c) Investigate ways of making inactive members more active

Discussion continued about the use of the telephone to contact our members, an area where many have expressed difficulties. Whether by telephone, cards, visits, or gifts... we continue to aim to reach out to our families at least once each quarter, and more often if possible. Personal communication becomes easier over time, as a trust is developed. We understand that boundaries exist, and if the services of our pastor, deacon or parish nurse are needed, that we ask permission to pass the need on to our professionals. Pastor Steve plans to make personal visits to all the parishioners in a year's time, keeping Thursdays open for his visits. [Fran Koenig wrote, "I would encourage all to try to connect with your list. There will be times you miss, but you are bound to reach people once in a while."]

A "Go-To" booklet was handed out. This was developed to give the Care Team leaders a handy reference to church staff, council members, Five Star Ministries, Financial resources available, Parish Nurse and ways to get involved in the life of the congregation. A few known emails and phone numbers will be updated. Contact Beth with future updates or corrections. Booklets will be mailed to those not in attendance. It was requested that a copy be placed on the Member page of the church website.

Speaking of the website, refer to it often. Updates are made two or three times a week. Executive Council voted to allow council meeting minutes to be put on the member's section of the website. Melody Costello (Communications Evangelism) has requested that 5-star and sub-committee leaders place meeting information on the Member page as well. Member Password is [Psalm 136-26](#).

The Care Team lists have been made available to the leaders via Google Docs. Please update information on the Google sheets, and make sure to pass new contact information onto Deb Musil. Six Care lists remain OPEN, meaning that about 55 individuals or families do not have a Care Team leader. Consider taking on additional families (using Google Docs to update your list) ... and encourage others to become a Care Team Leader. Jill and Beth will do the training! We are fortunate to have ALL our families covered with dedicated Delivery leaders.

Jill and Beth will continue to create Care Connection cards for the whole congregation (like Epiphany, Valentines, Lent, Holy Week, etc.). They will also send ideas to the leaders of topics for communication, such as VBS, Outdoor worship, Block Party. Jill and Beth are currently contemplating ideas for an upcoming Delivery. Please let them know your thoughts.

We are so grateful for all that you do! Continue Living God's Love.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:45 p.m.

LGL, Jill Heck and Beth Johnson