

Pastor's Report to Executive Council
May 17, 2022

As of writing today I've been serving the good people of St. Matthew two Sundays and eight days in the office. Those days have been extremely full, busy, and one might say "blurry" as I've met new people, learned new information, and been exposed to new ways of doing things here in this community. Add to this my adjusting to a new home and the process of unpacking and there hasn't been a whole lot of time to just "settle." Nevertheless, those days were great and the level of excitement as we begin this newest season in all of our lives is wonderful.

The name tags have been extremely helpful as I begin to learn names. Thank you! I've actually heard multiple people comment that they, too, are finding them helpful. It might be something the congregation will want to continue to use, even if for only one time a month.

Since the first of May I've visited in three homes of members and gone out to lunch with one family. I've found that some of those that signed-up to feed me would rather I come for a visit in lieu of just dropping off a casserole. I've enjoyed these visits very much! It's great to already get invited into people's lives and see where they spend much of their time. I've also attended three planned committee meetings, met with a Red Cross representative along with Melody Costello in securing a date for a blood drive, been in communication to organize and plan a St. Matthew bicycle blessing and ride event, attended choir practice, and had a lunch meeting with assistant to the Bishop Pastor Mitch Phillips. I also called a meeting together with Deacon Lindsey and John Burke in order to discuss and plan the worship schedule and various settings/services that are used here at St. Matthew.

Over this coming month I plan to settle into a visitation routine with the shut-ins and hospitalized, continue to visit with other members of the congregation, and attend any necessary meetings as I continue to learn the ins and outs of St. Matthew. Deacon Lindsey and I have discussed the many, many meetings that occur here monthly and I believe we have come up with a good plan in place to cover said meetings. Additionally, I will be attending a Conference cluster of Lutheran Pastors on the 19th and hope to have some idea of when the conference dean might be available for an installation worship service. I will keep the congregation posted.

I want to thank everyone for the warm and sometimes humbling welcome to St. Matthew. I am truly appreciate of the reception and I look forward to our future efforts together in Living God's Love within the walls of St. Matthew and sharing that love with the people of Medina and the wider community.

In Christ, with Christ, for Christ!

Pastor Steve Mahaffey