

Report to Congregation Council
September 16, 2025

Ok, I know I've written this before, but it needs to be reiterated ... we are a BUSY congregation! Most congregations "slow" a little during the Summer months ... and although we combine worship services into one, and pause Sunday School classes, it seems like everything else continues full steam ahead. And then we arrive at September, when we return to "normal" ... and I realize just HOW MUCH more happens. Maybe it's because we have added even more (or have been in the active stages of adding) and not just what was temporarily paused. What are those things you might ask? Well, here's a short list:

- Disaster Relief Mission Trip
- Eucharistic Ministers Reboot
- Social Ministry Team Reboot
- Social Justice Ministry start up
- New Member Class
- Hand Chimes Choir

That's A LOT of new! And that's just here at St. Matthew. I'm also serving on the NEW Synod Continuing Education Committee. So, maybe you can sort of see and understand just how incredibly busy (and blessed to have so many people willing to share their gifts) we are as a congregation!

With that said, we also have experienced a fair amount of newness and change this past month regarding staff. The Personnel Committee successfully conducted a series of interviews and recommended that the Congregation Council hire Rachel Knaggs as the Director of Music, a new position that oversees and supervises the music ministries here at St. Matthew. With that, Rachel now not only directs the Kids of the Kingdom Choir, but also the Adult Vocal Choir and the new Hand Chimes Choir. Welcome to the team Rachel! We also received the news that Brenda Disbrow is planning to retire here as Parish Nurse. After serving here for 25 years, she developed an amazing and caring relationship with so many members of the church. She will be deeply missed!

We said goodbye for now this month as Tom Thornton entered the Church Triumphant. On the same day we celebrated his life, a group of 30 congregants travelled down to Amish country on a charter bus, enjoying a day that included a guided tour led by LaVonne Dubois. Everyone shared what an amazing trip it was, and how knowledgeable LaVonne is. Thanks to the Fun Fellowship for recommending and helping to organize this special event.

This past month I visited with numerous families in their homes, celebrated birthdays at their parties, had planning meetings over dinner and coffee, cheered on youth at a couple of their football games, had the usual committee meetings as well as a Mutual Ministry meeting, finished up the study on the Gospel of Mark for Bible's & Brews, returned to singing in the choir, started ringing in the chimes choir, had breakfast with the men of the

congregation, enjoyed an evening out at Red Wagon Farms for Bible's & Brews, attended the Lutheran Conference monthly meeting, met with the Medina clergy, and did a little private spiritual counseling for a connected community member ... as well as the usual administrative duties that happen week in and week out here at the office.

A friendly reminder: I am still in need of a member for my Mutual Ministry Team to be recommended and agreed upon by the Congregation Council. Thank you!

In Christ, with Christ, for Christ!

Pastor Steve Mahaffey