

Pastor's Report to Executive Council
July 19, 2022

It's hard to believe it's been just a little over 10 weeks since I started my ministry here at St. Matthew, and yet the calendar doesn't lie. This past month only added to the learning, adjusting, and listening from last month, and yet I also felt a shift happening as I begin to "hit my stride" and fall into the rhythm of the congregation.

Worship this summer continues to go well. Sunday morning attendance has held steady around 90+/- each week. The substitute musicians (Cindy and Carol) did a wonderful job while John was away for the past month, especially Cindy, who was asked to learn and perform 2 worship settings she'd never played. The Wednesday worship services have also been a nice addition and experiment this summer. Although they haven't pulled in a large group of people, the people who've attended have appreciated the effort and chance for a more "intimate" worship experience. The VBS leaders (Christy & Linda) are also appreciative of the Wednesday service, as more parents than ever attended the VBS worship service than ever before (at least 60 people were there that night). Additionally, the Camp-style service seems to have resonated strongly with those in attendance, to the point that they've recommended we do something similar in future years for our annual outdoor Sunday worship service. A big thanks to Scott Schwantz for his music leadership in that service.

Related to worship, I presided at my first funeral service for a St. Matthew member, Paul Gesicki on June 27th. We also officially welcomed John and DeeAnne Minek into the Body of Christ as they passed through the waters of baptism. It's always an honor and blessing to be a part of this special day for people in their faith walk.

Vacation Bible School was a great success. 30 children came to St. Matthew the mornings of June 27-July 1. The children seemed to really enjoy the different lessons, and grew close to one another as the week wore on. This is such an important and valuable ministry, one that requires many hands to pull off. Thanks to everyone involved in making it such a special week together.

A group of St. Matthew members also marched for the first time in Medina's 4th of July parade. It was a mixed group of adults and children. We passed out candy, small frisbees with the church name on them, and postcards with information and an invitation to join us in worship. People along the route seemed very receptive to our presence in the parade. Again, thanks to all who participated, especially Jenn and Corey who planned the activity.

The usual panel of meetings took place again this past month. In addition to the normal slate, there was a special Comprehensive Youth meeting in which we discussed plans and visions for the youth during the Summer and into the Fall. Two positives that came from the meeting were a High School evening at Swings & Things, and a planned trip to Cedar Point for all youth of the congregation coming up on the 27th.

Visitation with the shut-in members, the hospitalized, and other members of St. Matthew also continues to go well. This past month I visited with 21 shut-ins, 13 family units, attended 2 graduation parties, a sporting event, and started the monthly Men's Breakfast Group.

In Christ, with Christ, for Christ!

Pastor Steve Mahaffey