

Report to Executive Council
October 18, 2022

This report includes information from August 17 to present, as I was away for two weeks of vacation in September when Executive Council last met.

During this large block of time much has happened here at St. Matthew. I was “officially” installed as Pastor on Aug 21; met with a member of the local Gideon’s chapter; attended an operation HOMES training; helped with set-up/tear-down and dunk tank at the Block Party; held new member classes following worship and welcomed them as members on September 11; met with local Medina clergy from other denominations for support and collaboration; met with the Cleveland East Conference of Lutheran pastors at our monthly meeting; helped to plan/coordinate/execute God’s Work Our Hands with our cluster churches; practice weekly with the Choir; watched the Brown’s lose yet another game with some of the men of St. Matthew; shared breakfast with some different men of the church; helped kick-off the education year on Rally Day and began adult Sunday School classes; attended various committee and individual planning meetings for ongoing and upcoming ministries and activities; attended youth events; judged the various chili’s as the hayride; visited with shut-ins and many other members of the congregation; and performed the many various day-in-day-out administrative demands while in the office throughout each week. During this time period it dawned on me that I’ve now completed 5 months of ministry here!

Additionally, during this large block of time I presided at Mary Gienke’s and John Siebert’s memorial services, as well as a graveside service for Jim Davis (Tom Davis’s brother), all who finished their race and entered the Church Triumphant. I attended as a guest at the wedding ceremony of Rebekah (Knaggs) and Evan Neidig, and renewed the wedding vows of Sarah (Waite) and Ben Fekete.

Home visits continue to go well with the membership of the congregation as I continue to work towards the goal of having had contact with everyone within my first year of ministry. I appreciate all who have graciously welcomed me into their homes or met me out in the community. I value the time we spend with each other as we continue to know one another on a more personal basis and outside of the usual Sunday morning “passings” at the back of the sanctuary. I continue to learn and hear new things about the life and ministry of St. Matthew and the many “perspectives” that exist in our life together.

I’ve received lots of positive feedback from my daily posts while away on vacation bicycling through British Columbia, Canada. I’m so happy that many here at St. Matthew chose to “follow” this latest adventure and travel along with me through my “pondering” and pictures. I view this as a part of my ministry and am happy that I’ve been able to reach so many different people not just within the congregations of St. Matthew and St. Luke’s, but many others outside of our faith communities. I continue to marvel in God’s good and majestic creation, as well as in the overall goodness I experience in the vast majority of people in the world. And yes, I hope to be able to do more of these trips in the coming years.

I plan to use the last of my 4 weeks vacation November 7-13 to help my daughter move.

In Christ, with Christ, for Christ!

Pastor Steve Mahaffey