



Reaching out
Reaching within
Proclaiming God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 342
2001 Windsor Drive
Newton, Kansas 67114
Church: 316-283-3310
www.stmatthewsnewton.org
www.facebook.com/stmattsnewton

The Messenger



2024

From the Interim Pastor—Fr. Richard Osborne

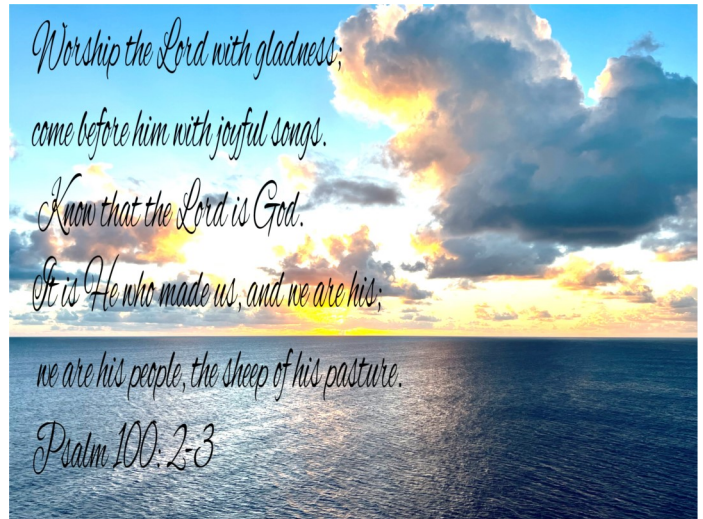
Tell Me What Hurts You

An old Hasidic rabbi, Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev in the Ukraine, used to say that he discovered the meaning of love from a drunken peasant. The rabbi was visiting the owner of a tavern in the Polish countryside. As he walked in, he saw two peasants at a table. Both were gloriously in their cups. Arms around each other, they were protesting how much each loved the other. Suddenly Ivan said to Peter, ***“Peter, tell me what hurts me.”*** Bleary eyed, Peter looked at Ivan. ***“How do I know what hurts you?”*** Ivan's answer was swift: ***“If you don't know what hurts me, how can you say you love me?”***

Do you know what made Jesus so loving a person, the greatest lover in history? He knew what hurts us. He knew then and he knows now – the loves and hates, hopes and fears, the joys and sadness of each of us. This is not pious poetry. The risen Jesus is not a vague figure in outer space. His resurrection did not remove him from us; it simply made it possible for him to touch not only Naim but recently, Kansas City.

Not only Magdalene but each of us. Christian living makes no sense unless we believe that at this moment, Jesus knows what hurts us. Not only knows that, knowing, seeks us out – whatever our kind of poverty or pain, however we weep, whenever we feel unloved.

Psalm 100:2-3 tells us:



March 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



St. Matthew's Vision Statement

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is living into God's vision for us as a beloved community and disciples of Christ. We are always growing in relationship with God, embracing our neighborhood and our world, and leading through acts of service as a beacon of God's justice and love.

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Matthew's is to Welcome, Respect and Care for All People. We accomplish this by following Christ, the perfect example of God's reconciling love, as we promote justice, peace and healing for ourselves and our world.

Office phone: 316-283-3310
Office e-mail: office.stmatthewsnewton@gmail.com
St. Matthew's office hours:

- Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-2:00 pm
- Fr. Richard is in the office 10:00 am-2:00 pm Monday and Tuesday.

Services: Holy Eucharist 10:15 am every Sunday
Evening Prayer 6:30 pm every Wednesday

- * PEF will meet Sunday, March 3 after church
- * The St. Matthew's Vestry's March meeting will be after church on Sunday, March 10
- * Lenten Study, each Sunday during Lent 9:00 am
- * Stations of the Cross during Lent, every Friday 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm

Kickstart to Capital Campaign Pancake Supper 2024

Jerry Wall

Once again, the proceeds exceeded my expectations. It happened only because of the generosity of all who attended and supported this event. Of course it couldn't happen without the many volunteers who give their time and skill. We have always gauged the success of this event by the net proceeds. This year it topped \$2,000.00. It will go into a capital campaign to address the HVAC, Lighting and a lot of other building issues. But, the true mark of success were the smiles and joy everyone displayed. This was truly a community communion. A special thanks to Alan Albrecht for stepping up to cook. He made over 200 pancakes. Also thanks to Margie Knupp for coordinating the kitchen staff and prepping the ham. Plus a special thanks to Chris and Daniel Teichler for the wonderful music provided during the evening. I've been honored to chair this event for a number of years and I will be assisting Fred Schroeder next year as I step aside. I hope all of you had as much fun as I've had.

LET'S FILL UP THE ST. MATTHEW'S FOOD PANTRY.



The Pantry has been a little bare here lately! Let's fill it up and help our neighbors. Some good items to include are easy open cans of vegetables, fruit, sauces, etc. Also microwave soups, mac & cheese and single meals. Please take into account the weather when leaving some items. Thanks for your help!



Rector
SEARCH COMMITTEE

One of the missions for the Vestry in 2024 is to organize a search committee for our next rector. If you are willing to serve on this important committee, please contact the church office or any Vestry member.



MARCH
Birthdays, Baptisms, and
Confirmations

**Remember to pray for each of these persons
on their special day**

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

March Birthdays

- March 5 - Katherine Lindgren, Kim Hill
- March 7—Ashton Jantz
- March 8 - Jaden Johnson
- March 6 - Scott Craig
- March 12 - Jessica Brungardt, Jon Ainsworth, Matt Bogner
- March 15 - Suzie Luginbill
- March 18 - Allison Hill, Elizabeth Wall Rodriguez
- March 23 - Joan Stahly, Bryanna Bush
- March 29—Bonnie Jones
- March 25 - Scott McCloud
- March—Jan Plummer

March Confirmations

- March 14 - Mitch Young

March Baptisms

- March 10 - Kristan Bogner
- March 24 - Joshua Reese

If you know of other birthday, confirmation, or baptism dates that are not listed, please contact the office so they can be included. Thank you.



Date Change: The St. Matthew's Card Guild will meet in March on **Monday the 4th 10:00—2:00, due to Spring break.** The Card Guild will continue to meet the 2nd Monday of each month at the church between 10:00am to 2:00pm. Bring a snack or your lunch.

All card materials are provided, but if you have paints or other materials, bring them to share your ideas. Be prepared for good fellowship, an outlet for your creativity, and loving ministry to our church family and friends in Christ.

The Rev. Diane Kruger appointed Deacon Pastor of Epiphany, Sedan

The Rev. Diane Kruger has been appointed as Deacon Pastor of Epiphany, Sedan. The Rev. Kitty Shield, Minister Shepherd for the South-Central Kansas Minster, will support Deacon Diane as a mentor and will continue to provide Eucharist to the parish monthly. Upon Diane's completion of her studies at Bishop Kemper School for Ministry and her ordination to the priesthood, which is expected in June 2025, she will become Priest-in-charge of the parish.

Deacon Diane was ordained to the diaconate in January 2017 at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. She currently serves at Trinity, El Dorado and participates in the Heartland Minster. Deacon Diane is a Registered Nurse working full time in Wichita and has been very active with [Kansas 2 Kenya](#), serving on the Medical Missions Team. She has traveled to Kenya multiple times to provide medical care to those in need.

Bishop Cathleen Bascom said of the appointment, "It is a creative time for the Episcopal Church as we look to new models of ministry to meet our needs. I am excited for Deacon Diane to step into this new role of Deacon Pastor at Epiphany, Sedan. She will provide excellent liturgical leadership for the parish, a passion for small-town ministry, and a heart for outreach that will help the parish continue looking outward to the community as it seeks to live out the Way of Love."

Congratulations Diane!!



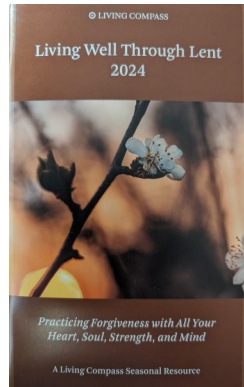
Tenebrae -
Service of Darkness

The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. It is a service that can be seen as an introduction to the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday). In a candle-lit sanctuary Christ’s suffering is commemorated through Scripture. Candles are extinguished one by one as the congregation listens to the account of Christ’s suffering and death

This form of the monastic office (matins and lauds) is commonly used during Holy Week. The office is structured around psalms, readings, and responses. Tenebrae includes use of fifteen lighted candles arranged on the Altar. One candle is extinguished as each of the fourteen appointed psalms is completed. The fifteenth candle, symbolic of Christ, is left lighted at the end of the final psalm. But it is carried away to be hidden, which signifies the apparent victory of the forces of evil. A sudden loud noise is made at the end of the service, symbolizing the earthquake at Christ's death. The lighted candle is then restored to its place, suggesting Christ's eventual triumph

The Tenebrae service always has a somber tone, reflected in the darkness, in the accounts of Christ’s suffering and in the silence of the people as they leave the sanctuary. But underlying the somber feeling is the anticipation of the resurrection, mirrored in the Christ candle.

Join us on Wednesday, March 27 to participate in and experience this Tenebrae Service here at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church.



Lenten Study Continuing thru Palm Sunday 9:00 am in the Parish Hall

Living Well Through Lent 2024: Practicing Forgiveness with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

Now through Palm Sunday, we will gather in the Parish Hall to discuss the previous week’s daily readings in this year’s devotional material.

We have often heard people come to the season of Lent with an attitude of, “I feel like I have to do something to be a good Christian, and I certainly don’t want God to be disappointed in me.”

Let us all approach Lent this year, not from a place of guilt or obligation, but from a place of love and as a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth. Practicing forgiveness will help us grow our spiritual life and deepen our relationships with God and others.

One of the contributors to this year's material is the Rev. Lisa Senuta, an Episcopal priest serving the Diocese of Kansas as director of Spiritual Formation & Clergy Care. Trained through Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Washington DC, her vocation focuses on spiritual guidance and faith development.

Pick up your copy of the study guide at the church. A Kindle Edition is available on Amazon for \$0.99.



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night, March 9. Daylight Savings Time begins March 10.



*March 2024
Coffee Hour
Hosts*



- March 3– Sarah and Chris Teichler
- March 10 - Margie Knupp
- March 17 - George and Kala Whiteside
- March 24 - Palm Sunday—Melissa Keenan
- March 31 - Easter—OPEN

There are plenty of openings on the calendar in the parish hall. Sign up today!

St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

19 non - perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in February.

Please remember those who don't have enough to eat.

Lenten Outreach

We are collecting items for the New Jerusalem Mission, located at 209 E. Broadway here in Newton.

There are lists, of what they need, located in the front hallway. Please place items in the large blue bucket.

We will be accepting donations through the month of March. Thank you!

Shut-Ins & Soldiers

We have added Jerry Collier to our shut in board.
She is located at Kansas Christian Home@
1135 SE 3rd St.
RM#410

Our shut-in board is pretty bare. If you have a loved one that you would like to receive visits and cards, please let us know. Please provide a picture for the board. Thanks

Superbowl of Caring

59 cans of soup were collected and donated to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in February. Thanks to all who participated in this outreach.



Please join
Deacon Barbara Gibson
and company
for Evening Prayer
every Wednesday
at 6:30 pm in the
St. Matthew's Covey Chapel.
Or join us on Facebook.
Everyone is welcome.
Come take
a few minutes to end your
day with prayer.



**Altar Guild Team for
March 2024**

Chris Simmonds,
Margie Knupp, Katie Reese, Elizabeth Hill

**Altar Flowers for
March 2024**

**March 3 thru 17
LENT**

No flowers on the Altar during Lent

**March 24
Palm Sunday**
Palms

**March 31
Easter**
Easter Lilies

Altar Guild members will be making Palm crosses on Saturday, March 23, at 10:00. Everyone is welcome to join us.



If you would like to contribute to the Easter Lilies, please fill out the form provided at the church or talk to Twila Lockaby

Bible Quiz

The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

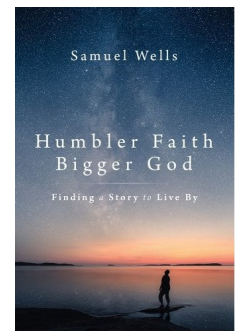
- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth



Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11.)

**Diocesan-Wide Book
Study After Easter**

Bishop Bascom invites the diocese to participate in a collective read of the Rev. Dr. Sam Wells' *Humbler Faith, Bigger God: Finding a Story to Live By*. The book is currently backordered at Amazon, but used copies may be found.



St. Matthew's will begin the study on the First Sunday after Easter at 9:00 A.M. in the Lounge.

Each of the ten chapters in *Humbler Faith, Bigger God* considers a timely and timeless criticism of Christianity or the Church. Wells tells the "old, old story" of traditional, orthodox Christianity before challenging it with the criticism of the "rival story – what an educated, rational, contemporary person would generally think." Wells concludes each chapter with "a story to live by," a response to both the "old, old," and the "rival," that serves "as a constructive vision for a renewed Christian faith."

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells is vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, and will speak at the 2024 Tocher Lecture on May 15-16 at St. Michael and All Angels, Mission. Interested participants can see a reading schedule or the Lecture will find information on the diocesan website: <https://episcopal-ks.org/2024-tocher/>



Hallelujah

During Easter Season, and hopefully beyond, we will be using the correct Hebrew spelling and pronunciation of the “Hallelujah”, with the beginning and ending “H”, as our liturgical Response. It is the only version used in The Psalms and Scriptures. The “H”-less BCP version is from another culture and language.

Briefly, the ancient 22 Sacred Letters of The Hebrew Alphabet are also individual Words with various mathematical values forming equations, which, they believe, God used to create this World and the Universe. “God spoke the Words. And it was so.”

The Letter “H”, Hebrew HEH, represents the creative feminine Shekinah in the Tetragramaton, YOD HEH VAV HEH, the Sacred Name of God. The Shekinah indicates The Presence of God.

After God added the Letter “HEH”, “H”, to Sara’s name (the Gematria of 5), the mathematical equation of her name changed. The Shekinah descended on her. She became fecund – The Matriarch of many Nations.

Sources:

Rabbi Michael L. Munk; The Wisdom in The Hebrew Alphabet. The Sacred Letters as a Guide. Art-Scroll Mesorah Series. Mesorah Publications, Ltd. 1997. Various other Rabbi’s. Studies in The Kabbalah.

PS: An anatomical experience:

When you say the Hebrew word, “Hallelujah”, with the beginning and ending “H’s”, you will notice an easy lung-deep, open-throat flow of air exhalation. When you speak the “H”-less version, there is an automatic constriction at the back of the palette, blocking the free flow of air from the lungs.

Selah!
Ruth Cooper
February 17, 2024

Dear Members of Saint Matthews

This month I am updating the Prayer Chain. I need to know if you wish to continue being part of the prayer chain or if you would like to have your name removed. If you are interested in joining the Prayer Chain, please talk to me after church, email or call.

Mary Upton, Prayer Chain Coordinator
316-841-1736

Prayer Chain Practices

- Requests are submitted directly to Mary Upton, or you may call the church office at 316-283-3310.
- The first name of the person for whom prayers are requested will be shared unless a last name is needed to avoid confusion.
- The reason for the request should be brief.
- Prayer Chain is not shared with others outside the prayer chain without their permission.
- Without permission, the name will not be shared on Sunday during Prayers of the People.
- Participants on the Prayer Chain will receive a list divided into groups based on the way that they need to be contacted.

St. Matthew's Prayer Chain



If you have a request for prayers for yourself or others, contact Mary Upton at **316-841-1736**. The information you share will then be passed on to the chain leaders who will pass the information on to their team. The members of the chain will add your request to their prayers. The information you give me is confidential and will not be shared with others outside the prayer chain without your permission.



LENTEN Schedule



Every Friday during Lent at 12:00 Noon and 6:00 pm in the St. Matthew's Sanctuary



Sunday, March 3
9:00 am—Lenten Study—in the Parish Hall
10:15 am—Holy Eucharist

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Sunday—March 10
9:00 am—Lenten Study—in the Parish Hall
10:15 am—Holy Eucharist

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Sunday—March 17
9:00 am—Lenten Study—in the Parish Hall
10:15 am—Communion in the Absence of a Priest

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

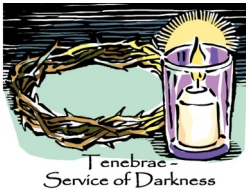


Holy Week



Sunday, March 24—10:15 am

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Wednesday, March 27—7:00 pm

All the elements of the religious service Tenebrae have deep spiritual and biblical meaning. The candles, darkness, and strepitus urge believers to meditate on Christ's sacrificial death. The service of Tenebrae invites us to reflect on what Christ did that "Good Friday."



Thursday, March 28—7:00 pm

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Friday, March 29—7:00 pm

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Sunday, March 31—10:15 am

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Here is the worship schedule for February. Please let the office know if you would like to sign up to read, usher and/or count. We can always use more hands! *If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, please find a substitute.* Thanks for your service!

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Season	3rd Sunday in Lent	4th Sunday in Lent	5th Sunday in Lent	Palm Sunday	Easter
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Communion in the absence of a Priest (ComAP)	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist
Leaders	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne	Deacon Barbara Gibson Mary Anne McCloud	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne
Lectors	Mary Upton	Kala Whiteside	Darlene Hall	Jeremy Kitto	Fred Schroeder
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	Fred Schroeder	Mary Upton	Twila Lockaby	Margie Knupp
	Margie Knupp	David Simmonds	Fred Schroeder	Mary Upton	David Simmonds
Ushers (2)	Elizabeth Hill	Melissa Keenan	Kala Whiteside	Rick Glover	Mary Werner
	Mary Upton	Bonnie Jones	George Whiteside	Bonnie Jones	Elizabeth Hill
Hosts	Sarah and Chris Teichler	Margie Knupp	Kala and George Whiteside	Melissa Keenan	Open
Altar Flowers	Lent	Lent	Lent	Palms	Easter Lilies
Acolyte & LEM	Ruth Cooper	Karen Wall	Mary Anne McCloud	Maggie Snow	Fred Schroeder
Organist	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Kelli Glann	Chris Teichler

Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent: 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm

Holy Week Servers:	Leader	Reader	Acolyte/LEM
Maundy Thursday	Fr. Osborne	Bonnie Jones	Maggie Snow
Good Friday	Fr. Osborne	Elizabeth Hill	Ruth Cooper