

## 2025 Pastor Annual Report

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)*

2025 has been a year of faithfully living into the plans God has for us. Not always perfectly but always faithfully. We worshiped, served, celebrated, lamented and prayed together in 2025. We share our ministry and building with two other congregations, Scouts, TOPS and Comunidades Unidas. In God's plan of building the beloved community and bringing God's will on earth as in heaven, we have contributed to what God is up to in Taylorsville and Utah! Here are a few highlights:

Worship is foundational for us at St. Matthew. Whether it's making the communion bread for Easter, sharing our prayer loom with West Valley City Pride festival, letting our prayers rise like incense at the Vigil, or our exciting Wonders of Worship learning, St. Matthew is a place where all belong, are wanted and participate.



Our God's Work Our Hands Sunday/Week was busy! We made prayer boxes for new worshipers at St. Matthew and hosted our annual yard sale! Many hands make light work and Crossroads Urban Center loves the donations when we're done!



We were the recipients of the gifts of George and Margaret Schliedt with a larger more efficient Free Little Pantry and thus turning our first one into a Little Library. Thrivent Action Grants allowed us to host a community meal to bless the pantry in partnership with our Scouts, the First Congregational Tongan Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, our ecumenical partners and the city of Taylorsville.

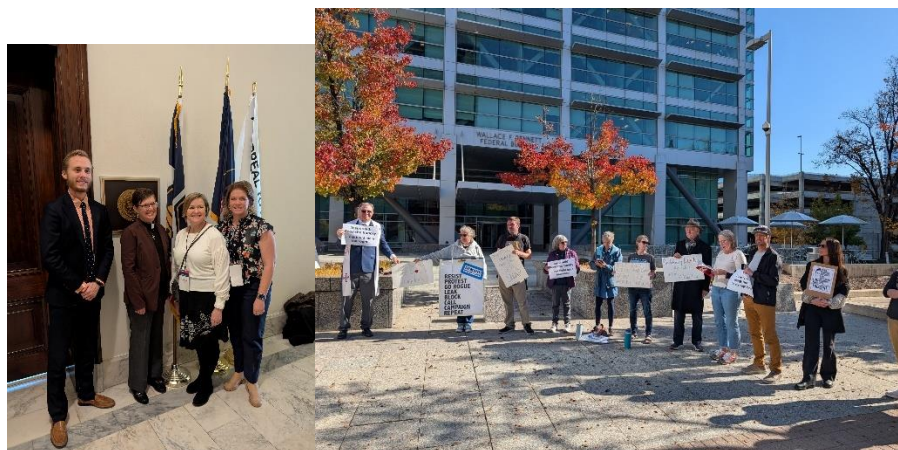


We received a generous thousand dollar grant from United Lutheran Seminary for another community meal. We partnered with Comunidades Unidas for a meaningful and vibrant Dia de los Muertos celebration. We made crafts, decorated our ofrenda, shared a meal of tamales, rice and beans, remembered our beloved ancestors, people who have been killed by the US immigration policies and prayed to be faithful ancestors for the generations who will follow us.



We also began St. Matthew For the Future-a focus group with all our partners in ministry. We want to plan faithfully for sustainability of our property and mission for the foreseeable future. This group gathers to share how we can keep the maintenance on the building current, discern how God might be calling us to use or share the property, and how we will collaborate in this vision.

My advocacy work is a vital piece of my faith and ministry in God's Church. I was blessed to plan the child care advocacy day in February at the State Capitol, offer training to childcare providers on advocacy in February in DC, as well as meet with our federal delegation. In September the first Gathering at the Gate of ELCA leaders was a success, and we are planning it again for this coming year. With the Salt Lake Progressive Clergy Coalition, we hold First Things, First Mondays at the federal building downtown SLC to demand justice, mercy and compassion for our immigrant, LBGTQIA, hungry and poor neighbors. I also work with Comunidades Unidas for immigrant rights and support in Utah.



I also became the Dean of the Utah Conference in June. I help facilitate collaboration, support and vision for the Utah conference of the RMS.

God has many plans for us at St. Matthew! I am looking forward to what God has in store for us in 2026. I am confident in God's unending love, mercy and presence with us in all times and in all places. Thanks be to God and thank you for being faithful servants of Christ!

*In love and gratitude,*

*Pastor Brigitte*

## **2025 COUNCIL YEAR END REPORT**

### A letter to St Matthew's Congregation and Council

As I reflect on my time leading church council here at St Matthew's, I feel compelled to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you on council for the incredible support you have shown me throughout the past four years.

It has been a true privilege to serve alongside such a dedicated and compassionate group of individuals that sit on this council. Their encouragement and willingness to engage in our initiatives have been invaluable and they have strengthened not only our council but our entire congregation. Together we have navigated challenges and celebrated successes, and I am grateful for their trust in me to lead our efforts during this time.

To the Congregation of St Matthew's, the warmth and unity within our church community are a constant reminder of the love and faith that guide us. Thank you for your openness to new ideas, your commitment to our mission, and your unwavering support. I am proud to call this congregation my home, and I look forward to continuing our journey together in faith and fellowship.

May God bless you all abundantly as we move forward, united in purpose and spirit.

- Council finalized on and approved new budget
- Nominated four members from St Matthew's for council replacements
- Prepared and submitted 2025 Congregational Report to Synod
- Participated in a Council Retreat in February
- Approved new contract with the Tongan Church
- Voted for MVS Evangelical Pentecostal Church to worship at St Matthew's
- Received a donation and deposited it into a C.D. at Redemption Bank
- Held several extra Council Meeting in person and on zoom regarding:
  1. Mom Pods Daycare
  2. Council Nomination
  3. Replace outgoing member of the Endowment Ministry

*With deepest gratitude,*

*Mike Stoker*



## **St. Matthew's Caring Ministry**

### **2025 Annual Report**

During 2025, St. Matthew's Caring Ministry team faithfully continued its mission of presence and compassion through regular visits with members of St. Matthew who are homebound, hospitalized, or residing in care centers. In addition, our team extended care to individuals in the broader community when notified by hospice providers or care facilities requesting visits or end-of-life spiritual support.

Caring Ministry team members provide weekly updates to one another regarding those we serve, ensuring continuity of care and awareness of changing needs. The team also meets quarterly for more in-depth discussions and shared reflection. Through open communication, we learn from one another as we encounter unique situations and work together to respond thoughtfully to any special needs.

Ongoing training remains a priority for the Caring Ministry. Team members participate in quarterly training sessions through shared study and discussion. Currently, we are reading *Care and Visitation Ministry – Equipping You to Serve*, guided by Pastor Brigitte.

The Caring Ministry team also maintains the prayer list in the monthly newsletter and weekly worship bulletins, helping the congregation remain connected in prayer and support.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share the Gospel and Holy Communion with those we visit. We strive to bring light, hope, prayer, and a listening ear. It is a blessing to strengthen relationships within our congregation and to extend Christ's presence into the wider community we serve.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karla Stoker



## Communications Ministry 2025 Report:

List of what we have been working on:

- Continued to manage the website and social media for St. Matthew's.
- Recorded Service for streaming on Sundays for the year.
- Updated the photo wall in the hallway.
- Looked into a digital sign pricings.
- Purchased a new computer for the office for live streaming.
- Purchased a new office computer. Currently working on updating the new computer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Communication Ministry

## ENDOWMENT MINISTRY REPORT 2025

The 2025 Endowment Ministry members included Elizabeth Hawke (Chair), Kristine Rowe, Pam Lawrence and Rev. Pastor Brigitte. Beginning of 2025 the Endowment Fund balance was \$55,173.21. The December 31, 2025 Endowment Fund balance is \$57,604.61. Gain/Decline was +\$4,631.40 The Endowment ministry received \$300 in donations this year and wishes to thank everyone for your generous support.

This year, the Endowment Ministry chose the global nonprofit organization, ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response, the disaster ministry of the ELCA, that focuses on both domestic and international crisis response and recovery.

The Endowment Ministry presented a check for \$2,500 to Lutheran Disaster Response in December along with a letter from the Endowment ministry.

Samantha Johnson was nominated and approved by the congregation to join the Endowment Ministry in 2026. The ministry extends appreciation for her willingness to serve.

Valerie made the Endowment quilt in 2023 which hangs on the west wall and displays the donations to the ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pam Lawrence*



# FAITH FORMATION ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The 2025 Faith Formation ministry members included Samantha Johnson (Team Lead) Elizabeth Hawke, Eric Stoker, Pam Lawrence and Pastor Brigette. Council liaison is Craig Widdowson.

The Faith Formation ministry met monthly and completed study of the books on intergenerational worship, by Rich Melheim & Friends and “Faith Webbing” by Gary & Laurie Pecuch.

Sunday School continues to remain in the worship setting to support intergenerational worship. In January, with the concurrence of Worship and Music, the “Prayground” with educational books/toys was also moved to the sanctuary and is going well. Ministry members rotate to give the Intergenerational Children’s message each Sunday. For the Advent season, the ministry followed the “Wonders of Worship” (WOW), a program to accompany congregations as they grow, love and serve God.

Liz led the Confirmation class studying “The Bible in 52 Weeks”. Confirmation for Elias and Ziegen was held on June 1. Due to low confirmands for 2026, Pastor proposed a Confirmation retreat.

Leandra led the Adult Forum studying the book “Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories”, including Lenten and Advent devotionals. The forum is currently studying the book “By Heart”, an Adult version on Luther’s Small Catechism.

Pastor provided mid-week Zoom worship services entitled “Broken and Beloved” during the Lenten season.

On August 24, the ministry held its second Intergenerational Vacation Bible Worship from the ELCA World Hunger program, “Come to the Table”, theme, providing crafts, games, bread making and fun for all.

Ministry member(s) attended the Rocky Mountain Synod (RMS), Faith Formation Network zoom meetings when available, to network with Synod colleagues.

On December 7, an Advent fair was held following worship, including crafts, cookie baking, and goodie bags for the Dream Academy children.

In 2026, the ministry will work on 2-4 Year goals, including increasing child/youth participation in worship. The ministry is going to be implementing a training program to

help increase the ministry and congregation's ability to interact, care for and to grow our children and youth programs both inside our doors and to the wider community.

Respectively submitted,

*Pam Lawrence*





## **Hospitality and Evangelism Ministry**

### **2025 Annual Report**

Members of the Evangelism and Hospitality Ministry are Mike Stoker, Jacki Peercy, Frank Cordova, Debbie Ventura, Mary Kay Arnold, and Pastor Brigitte Weir. This ministry meets on the fourth Monday each month. We have been reading the book “Evangelism for Normal People” by John P. Bowen.

- Served coffee hour and snacks on Sunday mornings in the Narthex before and after church.
- Newsletter articles were submitted to communicate upcoming Hospitality events.
- We use the church sign for Evangelism and updates on church activities/celebrations.
- Provided Reconciling In Christ with yearly \$120 donation to help support their ministry
- We use a visitor log-in sheet to follow-up with visitors.
- Decorate tables in Fellowship Hall for seasons and or events.
- We watch for members who haven't been attending church so we can follow up and check on them.
- Provided bagels for fellowship following Easter Sunday service.
- We helped with the parking lot for Taylorsville Day
- November, we provided chili after greening of the church.

In the future the Hospitality and Evangelism Ministry will combine with the Outreach & Advocacy Ministry to better use our resources. We will continue the work of being inclusive and welcoming to all of God's people. With our combined studies we will learn and work on teaching St. Matthews congregation what it means to be Evangelists and Advocates in our community of faith.

Respectively submitted,

Mary Kay Arnold

# Outreach and Advocacy Ministry 2025 Year End Report

## Members:

Jacki Peercy  
Cindy Becker  
Pastor Brigette  
Rhonda Joa  
Frank Cordova  
Mary Wimmer



## **Spiritual reading:**

We are reading *Take This Bread, A Radical Conversion* by Sara Miles.

## **Little Pantry:**

A larger Little Pantry built and put up this year with help from our Ministry, local wards, and our congregation. The former Pantry was repainted and is in use as a Little Library. The Pantry dedicated, and a community meal served on August 26, 2025.

The Little Pantry is stocked 3 to 4 days per week and is heavily used.

Four turkeys were donated and distributed.

Donations received from the congregation, local church groups, our community, and the Amazon list. The Amazon slips are posted in the narthex.

Pantry donation box made and donated by Tom and Rhonda Joa.

## **ELCA World Hunger:**

Souper Bowl of Caring: \$232.80

40 Days of Caring: \$439.90

Chick sales: \$138.05

Barns and Pigs Summer Collection: \$428.01

Total: \$1215.76

## **Smith's donations:**

First quarter: \$46.26

Second quarter: \$50.91

Third quarter: \$47.81

**Habitat for Humanity:**

Habitat for Humanity delivered a large amount of shelf ready milk.

Faith and Democracy Rally:

Our congregation made signs for the event.

**Dream Academy:**

Our congregation made eighty treat bags for their event. The Dream Academy is having a Jazz Party this year.

**Day of Service:**

The congregation made forty prayer boxes.

**Other services:**

Summer craft bags made from donated funds.

Shoes, food, and clothing delivered to Navaho individuals in rehab.

Delivered meals to a family from out of town for a hospitalized family member.

**Crossroads bin community donations:**

704 bags of clothing and other items.

Ten crib mattresses.

Three boxes of diapers.

Sixteen cases of formula.

One bag of afghans.

Seven coats or jackets.

**Warm clothing drive:**

Thirty-four bags of clothing.

Two quilts.

One comforter.

One box of clothing.

Eight cans formula.

Six boxes formula.

**Diaper and formula drive for Crossroads Urban Center:**

Thirty-eight boxes of diapers.

Two cases and seven packages of wipes.

Twenty-four boxes of formula.

**Community meal:**

A \$1000 grant was used for a meal for Comunidades Unidas to celebrate the Day of the Dead and All Saints Day. The remaining funds will be used for a meal in the spring for Family Promise.

Submitted by Mary Wimmer

## Shawl Ministry 2025 Year-End Report

Shawl Ministry continues to meet the first Monday of the month at 2 PM. Five to seven ladies are regular attendees.

Anyone is invited to attend. We work on shawls, hats, scarves, etc. for our congregation and for the warm clothing drive. Sometimes we get attendees who just want to visit and chat. Sometimes we bring other projects to work on.

**All are welcome.**





# STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

## **Stewardship Annual Report**

### **Thank You for a Faithful Year**

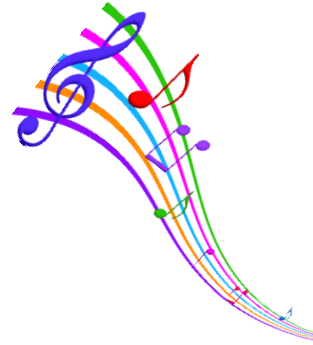
We are deeply grateful for your continued commitment and generosity throughout 2025. The Stewardship team prayerfully considered how best to support the needs of our ministries. This year, Communications and our office staff required a new computer, while Worship and Music needed a microphone headset. During our Stewardship announcements leading up to Commitment Sunday, we invited contributions to help cover these items. In true St. Matthew's spirit of giving, funds were provided even before Commitment Sunday, ensuring these needs were met.

Although overall giving was slightly lower in 2025, it remains strong for a congregation of our size and is far outweighed by the incredible support you provide through ministries and programs across the valley. Your generosity continues to reflect the love and abundance God has entrusted to us.

God delights when we share the gifts He has given—our time, treasure, and talent. Thank you for all you do to spread His love and grace in every aspect of life.

*Stewardship Ministry*

## *Worship and Music Ministry 2025 Report*



This ministry consists of a variety of people whose responsibilities interconnect with one another to make worship happen. The ministry meets monthly to prepare worship for the subsequent month or season.

This has been a busy year for us with all of the regular special services such as Christmas Eve, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter, and a RIC Service. We also held our second VBS worship service. A new special service was added this year to incorporate the surrounding community. A Dia Del Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)/All Saints community dinner with service was held on Saturday November 1, 2025 and it continued with the All-Saints celebration on Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025. It was a great time for the community and St. Matthew's.

One of our goals for this year was to try and be more inclusive in our services. We have incorporated the Passing of the Peace into Spanish, and during the Lent season we offered the Gospel Acclamation in Spanish or English. We moved the "toddler" area from the Narthex to the sanctuary. The "Pray ground" was set up originally in the back of the Sanctuary. We took the next step of inclusion and moved it to the front of the Sanctuary. The second annual Vacation Bible Worship service was held, and several other interactive intergenerational services were held on Pentecost and Holy Trinity. Pastor Brigitte again offered a mid-week Lenten Zoom series titled "Broken and Beloved" to allow people an opportunity to participate in Lent devotions.

On December 8, 2024 we Conferred Pastor Christine Higuera-Street as Pastor Emeritus during the service.

St. Matthew's was also accepted to participate in the Wonders of Worship program offered by St. Olaf College, and it has been a great addition to our weekly services.

On the administrative side of the ministry – Pastor held a Worship Leader Training workshop in May, and we updated our liquor license with the state. We are able to increase the selection of hymns that are available to us by purchasing a CCLI copyright license this year.

We've accepted new members; Pastor Brigitte officiated for several wonderful baptisms and unfortunately a few funerals.

The Lay Preaching Ministry continues to meet once a month with Pastor Brigitte.

Submitted by,  
Leandra Ludlam  
Worship & Music Ministry