St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Newsletter

October 2026

Faith Chat:

We are called to proclaim God's grace by sharing the story of Jesus, to bring light, hope and healing to the world.

Acts 2: 44-45: *44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds[a] to all, as any had need.*

Believe it or not, biblical scholars actually think that this passage may have been a factual event…even if only for a hot second. This was part of the appeal of the community being formed by the apostles and the followers of Jesus or The Way, as they were known. They were an odd group, eschewing individual property, living together, eating together, and worshiping God as made known to them in the good news of Jesus Christ. If I ran into such a group of people today, personally, I'd shake my head and roll my eyes. It's hard to believe that such a way of living could work. I get anxious when guests stay at my house for too many days! Mike's grandpa used to say, "you make me happy twice, when you come and when you leave." And don't get me started on when Mike borrows my car and I need to reset the seats, mirrors, radio…ugh. Share all I have? With people I may not know or like? I don't know.

But Jesus did know. Jesus knew that it's hard for us to consider truly living communally. This new church formed in the aftermath of crisis, trauma and resurrection (don't forget that even good events like resurrection can bring crisis and trauma), clung to each other as only trauma-bound people can: with a shared story and hope. I do believe that these verses in Acts were true.

I also believe that it didn't last because the new folks added daily to their midst, Acts goes on to say, didn't share the story, didn't share the crisis and trauma; they came with their own. And I think that's ok too. The real test of a community is its ability to make room for new stories, and differing perspectives on what the future could look like.

What does the future look like at St. Matthew? Ask any two people and you might get four responses…and that's ok! We all come with differing stories, histories, and visions for ourselves and the congregation. AND we all share the common story of Jesus Christ, died, buried, resurrected and ascended to God for the sake of uniting heaven and earth and us all. This unchanging story is our way as a community, even when we may not share all things in common. The promise of new life here today and forever permeates everything we do at St. Matthew and the community we serve.

We are still being formed as community, much like the early followers in Acts. We are still being transformed by the love of God through Jesus Christ for the whole world. This is why St. Matthew matters in Taylorsville and the westside of Salt Lake Valley. The Little Free Pantry, our building for community gathering, our coming community gardens, the labyrinth, prayer shawls, all signs of God's transforming presence.

On October 11 in worship, we will prayerfully respond to our mission in 2027 through our stewardship appeal. We set a budget based on what people commit to giving in the coming year. We know that budgets are tight, and we know that the world is uncertain. We also know that we as the people of God are called to this time and place for the sake of those with less. Watch your email/mail for more information as well as in worship.

Thank you for being St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Rooted in a story of compassion, mercy, justice, grace and love.

In Christ,

Pastor Brigette Weier

FAITH Chat

Contents:

Council President's Letter	2
October Newsletter Articles	3
Micah 6:8 Ministry	6
St. Matthew's Information	9
October Birthday Wishes	9
Church Calendars	10
Prayer Chain	12

Council President Letter:

Dear friends in Christ,

As autumn settles in and the world around us turns toward brilliant color, we give thanks for God's faithful presence in every season. Fall invites us to pause, notice the gifts growing in our midst, and gather again around God's Word, the sacraments, and one another. We are grateful to share this season of worship, learning, service, and fellowship with you.

New Energy at St. Matthew's:

There is so much wonderful energy at St. Matthew's! We see it in joyful conversations before and after worship, in willing hands serving neighbors, in children and adults asking thoughtful questions, and in new ideas taking root across our shared ministry. This energy is more than a busy calendar—it is a sign of people responding to God's grace with curiosity, generosity, and hope.

Thank you for bringing your gifts, your prayers, and your presence. Together, we are helping St. Matthew's remain a welcoming place where faith is nurtured and love is put into action.

Fall Devotion: Rooted in Grace:

"Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever." — *Psalm 125:1*

Autumn makes change visible. Leaves brighten, loosen their hold, and return to the earth. The air cools, daylight shortens, and familiar routines begin again. Amid all this movement, the psalmist reminds us that trust in God gives us a deeper rootedness. Our circumstances may shift, but God's mercy does not. We do not have to resist every change or know exactly what comes next; we can meet each new season held by the One who abides forever.

This fall, consider one thing you are being invited to release and one way God may be calling you to grow. Make room for a quiet moment each day—to notice, to pray, and to receive grace. Like the trees that let go in trust, may we discover that surrender can open space for new life.

Prayer: Faithful God, root us in your love as the seasons change. Help us release what we no longer need, welcome the growth you are bringing, and share your grace with our neighbors. Bless the life and ministry of St. Matthew's, and guide us forward together in hope. Amen.

Church Council Openings:

In November, the Council will be seeking four members of the congregation to step up and serve on Church Council. We have four people completing their terms on council, and these positions will need to be filled.

If you have ever wondered what it is like to serve on council, or if you feel God may be nudging you to become more involved in the life and leadership of our congregation, we encourage you to learn more. Please see Kelli Wendlandt, Pastor Brigette, or any member of council for more information.

Being on council has been such a wonderful experience for me. It has given me the opportunity to learn more about the work of our church, to serve alongside faithful and caring people, and to see firsthand how God is using St. Matthew's to make a difference. I hope you will prayerfully consider whether this may be a way you are being called to serve.

Come and Be Part of It:

Wherever you are in your journey of faith, there is a place for you at St. Matthew's this fall. Join us in worship, take part in a ministry, invite a friend, or simply reach out and connect. We look forward to all that God will do among us in the season ahead.

With gratitude and peace,

Kelli Wendlandt

Council President
kseglem@yahoo.com

October Newsletter Articles:

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on the first Monday of every month at 2 PM. Prayer shawls, hats, baby blankets, and scarves are projects we work on together. We have a great need for yarn donations; please see Mary Wimmer or Henny Johnson for more information.

Email Change:

Please note that the emails for St. Matthew's have been changed. The new ones are:

- Office email will now be officeofstmatts@gmail.com
- Newsletter email will now be newstmatts@gmail.com

Submitted by Brian Schuster
Communications Ministry

Sunday Service Streams Live:

It's too hot, I'm sick or I just can't get moving on a Sunday morning. Don't worry you can still watch service.

St. Matthew's streams service live every Sunday at 10:00 am so join us online. If you can't join service on Sunday that week, service is still on our web page www.stmatthewsut.org for five days.

So if you want to hear the sermon again or want to hear the gospel or Sam's music during that week, just go to St. Matthew's web page and click on the link.

Submitted by Communication Ministry

Commitment Sunday:

It's that time of year again. When the leaves start to turn, it is time for us to begin to think about the season of giving. It is also time to pray about your pledge for next year. Pledges (and thus the pledge cards specifically) are important. Without the pledge cards the council is unable to make a budget for the upcoming year. This year, the council is looking for some extra money for a new printer for the office. A decent scanner/copier that is Bluetooth runs anywhere from $500-$1,000. Please discern over what God is calling you to give. Money is important and necessary yes, but there are many ways to be Stewards of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, including donating your time and talents. **October 11, 2026** will be commitment Sunday, so please be sure to pick up your pledge cards from the ushers before then. Please reach out to the Stewardship Ministry members with any questions.

Submitted by Harmony Thaemert
Stewardship Ministry

On behalf of Tom, myself, and Clifford the Big Red Truck, thank you St. Matthews!

You have all embraced us, loved on us and made us feel a part of this church family ever since we walked through the doors 3 1/2 years ago.

We are blessed and honored to be a part of this church family and look forward to many more years of serving and worshipping together!

Blessings and love to all,
The Joa's

L.E.O's (Lutherans Eating Out):

Formally known as the Old Timers Breakfast will meet at the Taylorsville Dee's on Redwood Rd. at 9 AM on **October 6th**, and **20th**.

Submitted by Pastor Brigette Weier

St. Matthew's Family and Friends, join us the First Friday of each month for a Fun Family get together! These meet-ups will mostly cater to families with kids, but **EVERYONE** is welcome and wanted! Come visit, play, and participate.

Bring the kids or grandkids! Invite a friend or neighbor! Each month we will have a fun activity and small service project.

For the month of October join us **Friday, October 2nd** from 6-8pm at the church for a bonfire to roast hotdogs for dinner. We will make smores, sip cocoa, paint pumpkins, and enjoy strengthening our friendships with one another. Bring a side to share and a pumpkin to paint, if you are able, and enjoy a beautiful fall evening around the fire. We will also learn about our little pantry and help to clean, organize, and refill it.

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by the Emily Steadman

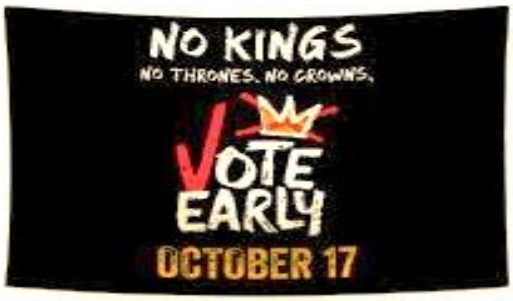
Urgent Congregational Meeting:

We will be holding a congregational meeting immediately after service on **October 11th**. We will be discussing the repair of the roof.

Please look in emails for more information prior to the meeting.

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by the Council



No Kings: Vote Early Rally:

On **Saturday, October 17th**, there will be a No Kings: Vote Early event at 3 pm. We will gather at the Utah State Capitol and then walk to the ballot box at the SLC Library with our mail-in ballots. Voting matters! Join Pastor Brigette for this event!

Submitted by the Pastor Brigette Weier

Confession and Forgiveness Workshop:

On **October 27th** after worship, we will have an intergenerational workshop on confession and forgiveness from Luther's small catechism. There will be crafts, age appropriate learning, and adult small group. Join us for this important time of deepening our faith! Contact Pastor Brigette for more information.

Submitted by the Pastor Brigette Weier

Reformation Day - **October 25th** (Wear **RED**)

All Saints Day – **November 1st** - please bring your photos of your loved ones to display on the Altar.

Christ the King Sunday - **November 22nd** - Special Greening of the Church service.

Advent begins - **November 29th**

St. Matthew's Advent Festival - **December 6th**

Please plan to bring poinsettias to decorate the altar for Christmas Eve between **November 29th** and **December 20th**.

Submitted by Leandra Ludlam
Worship & Music Ministry

Dia De Los Muertos:

Dia De Los Muertos is **November 2nd** this year. We had such a wonderful time last year with crafts, decorating the ofrenda, honoring our loved ones and prayer that we'd like to do it again! If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Brigette.

Submitted by the Pastor Brigette Weier

Yard Sale:

Join us for our annual Church Yard Sale on **Saturday, November 14th**! Come find great deals while supporting our church community.

Volunteers Needed: We're looking for helping hands to set up and organize on **Thursday, November 12th** and **Friday, November 13th**. If you can spare a few hours, we'd love your help getting everything ready!

Please contact Ronda Schuster or Karla Stoker if you're able to volunteer or have questions.

Submitted by Karla Stoker

Micah 6:8 Ministry:

The Little Pantry:

We have surplus on some of our pantry items so we are asking for the listed items below that are in short supply.

ANY & ALL NON-PARISHABLE FOOD ITEMS:

Cereal, Spaghetti O's, Ravioli, canned meats, spam, canned chicken, tuna, pork, sardines, canned vegetables/fruits & jelly/jam

ANY & ALL PERSONEL HYGIENE ITEMS:

Shampoo/conditioner, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toilet paper, tampons/pads & paper towels

Or…Check out our Amazon site and do your shopping from home! It's easy to do!

REMEMBER, THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH IS DESIGNATED FOR BRINGING YOUR DONATIONS TO CHURCH, BUT THE BOX IS AVAILABLE FOR DONATIONS EVERY SUNDAY.

AND AS ALWAYS…THIS MINISTRY COULD NOT BE DONE WITHOUT ALL OF YOU! THANK YOU!

Submitted by Rhonda Joa
Micah 6:8 Ministry

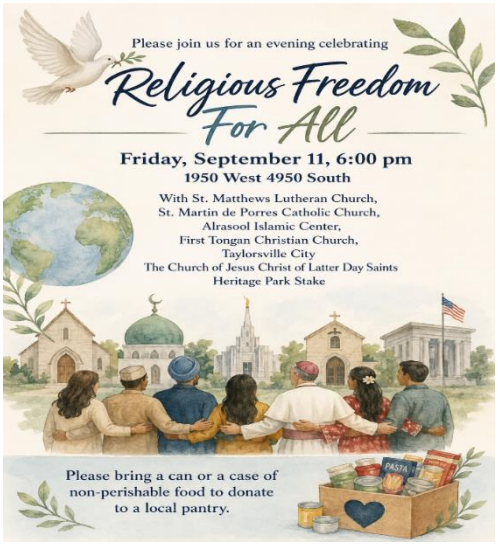
Little Lending Library:

You may have noticed that one of the shelving units in the Narthex is now an extension of The Little Lending Library.

One of the wards within the Heritage Park Stake held a book drive for our Little Lending Library.

This is overflow and you are welcome to take/leave a book for yours and others reading pleasure!

Submitted by Rhonda Joa
Micah 6:8 Ministry



Religious Freedom For All

After the busy weekend of September 11th, I wanted to update you all on how this all came about.

Jacki Peercy and I are committee members of the Taylorsville 9/11 Service Day.

This committee consists of different church denominations within the Taylorsville area and gather once a year to serve the Taylorsville area.

This year we hosted a celebration of Freedom of Religion on the evening of Friday 9/11.

Submitted by Rhonda Joa
Micah 6:8 Ministry

Piggy and Barn Banks:

The total for donations this summer for ELCA World Hunger is $195.57. I will send this next month with the benevolence.

Submitted by Mary Wimmer
Micah 6:8 Ministry

God's Work. Our Hands:

The next day a food drive involving the Taylorsville community brought in food donations and St. Matthew's was the drop off location.

The committee decided to keep the donations local (prior years have gone to the Utah Food Bank).

The donations (as some of you saw stacked up in the Library) were plentiful and generous.

The donations were shared among the Taylorsville Food Pantry and 3 elementary schools right here in Taylorsville and of course our Little Pantry at St. Matthew's.

Submitted by Rhonda Joa
Micah 6:8 Ministry

Interfaith Council of Taylorsville:

Also Jacki, Tom and I serve on the Taylorsville Interfaith Council.

This council is also made up of difference denominations in the Taylorsville City area.

Our goal is to have better understanding of one another's faith practices and be in loving community with one another.

The Interfaith Council hosted a breakfast for the Taylorsville First Responders at the Taylorsville City Hall Park on Saturday September 12th and some of our own from St. Matthew's helped with that activity.

What a blessing to be in service with our Brothers and Sisters of different religious denominations!

And a huge THANK YOU to all from St. Matthew's that helped make this weekend a success!

Submitted by Rhonda Joa
Micah 6:8 Ministry

Ronald McDonald House / Pop Tab Donation:

Start saving your pop can pull tabs and bring them to church.

There is a gray bucket in the narthex to collect the tabs. They will be taken to the Ronald McDonald House to help with the funding for families who have to travel long distances with their children who need hospital care.

Submitted by Rhonda Joa
Micah 6:8 Ministry

Diaper & Formula Drive:

Micah 6:8 is encouraging everyone to bring diapers, formula, and baby wipes thru the months of **October** and **November**.

These will benefit the Crossroads Urban Center. You can place these behind the rail by the alter.

Submitted by Mary Wimmer
Micah 6:8 Ministry

Warm Clothing Drive:

Micah 6:8 will be conducting a warm clothing drive from **November - February**. The box will be in the narthex, and the donations will be taken at regular intervals to Crossroads Urban Center stores. New and gently used articles are welcome such as blankets, sleeping bags, socks, new underwear, coats, hats, and scarves. If you knit or crochet, the Shawl Ministry will be making these at our monthly meeting on the first Monday of the month at 2 PM. Anyone is welcome to join us, even to keep us company!

Submitted by Mary Wimmer
Micah 6:8 Ministry

It's Easy, Safe & Convenient!

Go to St. Matthew's Website.
Click on the **BLUE** donation button.

St. Matthew's provider for online giving is Tithe.ly. You can make one-time donations or set-up a giving schedule that meets your needs. Tithe.ly will do the work for you, making your giving easy and convenient. If you have any questions please check with the Stewardship Ministry.

If your donation to St. Matthew's through Tithe.ly fails to process, you will receive an email from Tithe.ly notifying you that the transaction was unsuccessful. This typically happens when there is an issue with the payment method, such as an expired credit card. If you receive the email, please double check your payment details and update your information to ensure your contribution can be processed successfully.

Submitted by Stewardship Ministry

St. Matthew's Information:

St. Matthew's Newsletter:

Our newsletter has more information about the life of the congregation that you don't want to miss. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please send an email to Amanda Ventura at newstmatts@gmail.com to get your name added to the list.

October Birthday Wishes:

- Chad Wendlandt — October 8
- Dallas May — October 9
- Gwen Butcher — October 15
- Frank Cordova — October 20
- Saffire Johnson — October 20
- Pamela Lawrence — October 26

Church Calendars:

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Family Fun Friday – 6 PM – 8 PM	3
4 Worship – 10 AM Adult Forum – 11 AM	5 Prayer Shawl – 2 PM	6 L.E.O.'s – 9 AM Worship & Music – 7 PM	7	8	9	10
11 Commitment Sunday! Worship – 10 AM Congregational Meeting Adult Forum – 11 AM	12 Micah 6:7 – 7 PM	13 Preaching Ministry – 6 PM	14 Caring Ministry – 6 PM	15	16	17 No Kings: Vote Early Rally – 3 PM
18 Stewardship – 9 AM Worship – 10 AM Adult Forum – 11 AM	19 Council – 7 PM Newsletter Articles Due!	20 L.E.O.'s – 9 AM	21	22	23	24
Reformation Sunday! 25 Worship – 10 AM Confession & Forgiveness Workshop Adult Forum – 11 AM	26	27	28 Faith Formation – 4 PM	29	30	Halloween! 31

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ACTIVITIES, MINISTRIES, & EVENTS.

We are called to proclaim God's grace by sharing the story of Jesus to bring light, hope, and healing to the world.

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

Watch for announcements in email, snail mail, text message, voicemails, and Facebook.

October 2026

10:00 AM	Presiding Minister:	Preacher:	Worship Assistant:	Intergenerational Message:	Greeter:	Usher:
4-Oct	Leandra Ludlam	Karla Stoker	Eric Stoker	Samantha Johnson	Kelli & Eli Wendlandt	Debbie & Amanda Ventura
	Counters: Debbie & Rhonda		Hospitality: Debbie		Caring Ministry: Mary W.	
11-Oct	Pastor Brigette	Pastor Brigette	Rhonda Joa	Pastor Brigette	Eric Stoker	Harmony Thaemert
	Counters: Cindy & Jacki		Hospitality: Craig & Sandi		Caring Ministry: Karla	
18-Oct	Karla Stoker	Mary Kay Arnold	Madeline Steadman	Mary Kay Arnold	Amanda Ventura	Mike Stoker
	Counters: Lue & Mary Kay		Hospitality: Rhonda J.		Caring Ministry: Liz & Mary Kay	

Reformation Sunday

25-Oct	Pastor Brigette	Pastor Brigette	Mary Kay Arnold	Pastor Brigette	Harmony Thaemert	Tom & Rhonda Joa
	Counters: Harmony & Kris		Hospitality: Mary Kay		Caring Ministry: Mary W.	

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please switch with someone or find someone to take your place.
Thanks, Mary Kay Arnold (801) 232-7564.

Prayer Chain:

For Healing in Mind, Body or Spirit:
Mary Beck, Danny Behounek, Jon & Sandy Behounek, Brianna & Dan Bell, Julie Durrance, Leone Eastman, Scott Frandsen, Gretel Gallagher, Annalisa Giles, Josie Granlund, Lue Humphries, Henny Johnson, Christine Knittle, Edie Knittle, Mark Knittle, Connie Maldonado, Nancy Marple, Kathi Marshall, Sandra Muthreich, Mary Nielsen, Janet Peercy, Jim Peverelle, Pastor John & Jackie Sandstrom, Norman Seglum, Shy Schaugaard, Rick Stevenson, Viki Tellez, Katie Ventura, & Allison Winters.

Military & Other Public Servants:
1st Lt. William Clausen, US Army; Andrew Nguyen, US Air Force; Cadet Evan Schomaker, US Army; & Cody Wood, US Army.

The Community & World:
Our prayer partner congregation, Mt. Tabor; schools; all victims of violence and/or warfare; those who have lost homes and businesses in the fires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters, all who are suffering because of COVID-19, and those recovering from addictions.