

# CONNECTIONS

LOVING GOD, LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR, CHANGING THE WORLD

## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church - Enid, OK



Dear St. Matthew's Family -

2020 has presented us all with new challenges and from the looks of things, it's not going to ease up anytime soon, which means we are all having to discover how to operate in what is most commonly referred to as the "new normal." We must do this as individuals and as organizations, including the Church.

Pew Research recently provided the Church with some very insightful information on how congregations are responding to this new normal, particularly with regard to attendance: "among those who say they attend services at least monthly in more normal times, just one-third report that they attended in person during the month preceding the survey, but a far larger share (72%) say they have watched religious services online or on TV in the last month." ([www.pewforum.org](http://www.pewforum.org)) That describes St. Matthew's almost perfectly. Those who worship in person are less than one-third of where we were at the beginning of the year, but our on line attendance is quite good. This is only my opinion—it is difficult to measure—but I believe that we are actually reaching more people now than in pre-COVID-19 times. So, all the new technology we are employing is helpful in many respects: we can stay in touch, provide online services / classes, and stay informed, but technology is limited in how it can assist us in fostering and maintaining community. Community requires more than YouTube, email, or a Facebook post. Community requires real contact. Community is the Church—"Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?" "I will, with God's help... and a mask, with social distancing, after having my temperature taken, etc." So how do we do this? In September, we're going to try a few things (two involve technology and one does not) to help us get started. Let's begin with the technology bit.

By launching **Realm Connect** (with the slogan, "Church doesn't always happen at church") we hope to bring much of our communications, scheduling, small groups, etc. under one umbrella. Realm Connect is a software for both iPhone and Android users. It is easy to install and to use; however, in order for it to be successful, we will need the highest possible participation. To accomplish this, we will be putting together teams of individuals who can meet with you to assist in installing and setting up the application on your device. Very soon, you will be receiving an email with an invitation to join—don't delete that email. Feel free to connect yourself if you are comfortable in doing that, otherwise, someone will be in touch to help. Please participate. All of our current email, app, calendars, etc. will be going away.

Second, we will begin to offer **online studies**. These studies will be two to four weeks in length and be offered via Zoom. Don't be afraid if you have not participated in Zoom meetings. They are easy to access. The first course will begin on September 16th and be a four week

September 2020

study of “The Lord’s Prayer” taught by my good friend, The Very Rev. Heidi Kinner (more information on the course is below). These courses will be live at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, but also recorded so that you can view them at another time.

For the non-technological addition, we are bringing back a favorite from St. Matthew’s past: **Narthex Groups**. These are small groups of individuals (less than 10) who will meet about once per month in someone’s home or a restaurant for fellowship and to share a meal. We’ll have signup available for this soon, but as before, the groups will be randomly selected. Once selected, the group will be together for four months and then we’ll begin again. At the recommendation of some of our parents, we will have an option for adults only or families with children or both. Please take into consideration that this will be a higher risk event, but by keeping the group size small, we hope to mitigate some of that risk. Watch for a survey in your email box for participation opportunities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have other ideas on how we might further develop community during these odd times.

Pray for one another. Pray for your Church.



### The Lord’s Prayer Going Deeper

Begins Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Taught by The Very Rev. Heidi Kinner

Course Description: a four-week study of the Hebraic roots of the Lord’s Prayer, its context in the Gospels, and a look at how the Lord’s Prayer touches all aspects of our life.

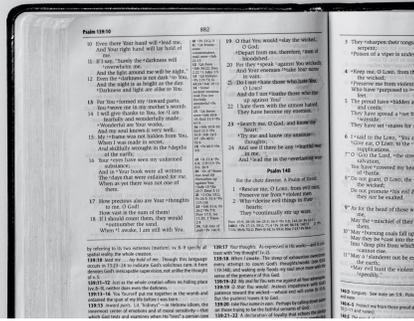


The Very Reverend Heidi Kinner was ordained in 2004 and served churches in California, Alabama, Montana, before moving to Israel in 2017 for a year of study at Jerusalem University College. She is currently serving a seasonal snow-bird chapel in Florida, and spending her summers in Montana and Israel, pursuing her studies in the areas of the Hebraic context of Christianity and Biblical Historical Geography.

She has been friends with Fr. John since 2001 when they sat next to each other in their first class at Nashotah House Seminary.

# MORNING PRAYER

Monday - Saturday  
at 10:00 a.m.



THURSDAYS AT 5:45 P.M.

## CHOIR PRACTICE

All are welcome!



**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**

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**The Rev. Dr. John Toles, Rector**

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**Rebecca Reneau Parish Administrator**

stm.enid@icloud.com

**Treasurer**

stm.treasurer@suddenlinkmail.com



**HOLY HAPPY HOUR**

Friday / September 18  
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

ZOOM EVENT

**Weekly Rosary Service**

Every Tuesday at noon



**CONTACT THE CHURCH FOR ZOOM ACCESS CODE.**

*temptation*

CIC Meeting  
Monday  
September 14  
6:30 p.m.

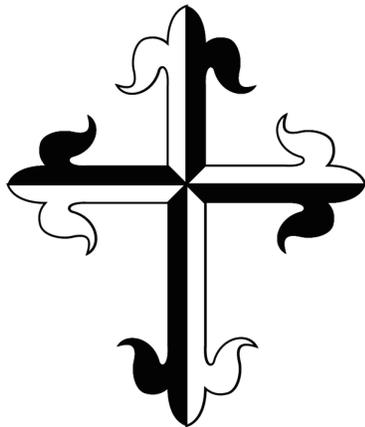



ZOOM event  
all are welcome





Those Who Serve	Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Lector / Intercessor	Doors
Sept 6	Linda Franklin	Sharon Franklin	Pat Farrell	Sharon Franklin
Sept 13	Claire Hume	Stan Miller	Claire Hume	Dora Baker
Sept 20	David Hume	Mike Rich	Leslie Terrell	Dean McCollough
Sept 27	Sharon Franklin	Kendall C.	Kathy Smith	Andy Fosmire



Ashley Contreras, Nicholas Johnson, and Fr. John have all been accepted as postulants in the Anglican Order of Preachers / Dominicans.

The Anglican Order of Preachers is an apostolic religious community inspired by the spiritual tradition founded by Saint Dominic de Guzman in the thirteenth century. It was not until the last years of the twentieth century that an expression of Dominican spirituality and life could be found outside of the Roman Catholic Church. The Order is composed of men and women from around the world and various provinces of the Anglican Communion and her sister Churches.

The mission of the order is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with a particular emphasis on proclamation ministries of evangelism and discipleship. The brothers and sisters surrender their entire lives to an apostolic lifestyle dedicated to God. This lifestyle, inspired by the lives of the first apostles and Saint Dominic, is lived out within the ordinary challenges of life, so that all people in all places can hear the Gospel.

The community is scattered, with brothers and sisters living across the world; by themselves, with their families or in small groups. They support themselves and the order by their work, either within the Church or the world. Brothers and sisters take vows of marriage or vows of celibacy. In everything members are encouraged to live out the words of Saint Dominic, "to speak with God or about God."

Playing on the name, Dominicans, a Latin nickname was given: *Domini canes*, "Hounds of the Lord". The process for becoming a fully professed sister / brother takes at least three years of study and participation in the Rule of Life established by the Order.

The Order is recognized by the National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities (NAECC) under the canons of The Episcopal Church. You can learn more at [www.anglicandominicans.com](http://www.anglicandominicans.com).

