

Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

February 25, 2024



Welcome to worship We worship as we live — in the name, and under the guidance, of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As we journey through the season of Lent, may we listen for Jesus' voice, rest in his care and share his love with others.

Holy Communion: All are welcome to come forward at the time of communion to receive God's gift of grace. Gluten free wafers as well as juice are available for those with specific dietary needs. Juice is available as an alternative to wine, in the center of each communion tray. Speak to an usher if you need assistance coming forward.

A large-print bulletin is available from an usher. If it's helpful to you or someone you are worshipping with, please take one.

Guest Preacher Today: Pastor Frank Janzow served at Ascension Lutheran Church, Waukesha, for 37 years. He was also our guest preacher in April 2023. In his retirement, he is an author, guitarist, songwriter and pastoral coach (www.sundaycreations.com) We are grateful for his willingness to share his time and gifts for ministry with us today.

Greetings from Our New Pastor, The Rev. Kevin Kretzmann Farrar:

Hello, St. Matthew's! I am overjoyed to be called to be your new lead pastor! I start on February 28. I've had the pleasure of meeting some of you already and look forward to getting to know all of you. Not only do I look forward to joining St. Matthew's as a pastor but also as a parent. I am excited to raise my daughter, Zoë, and our second child (due in May) in such a faithful, supportive church. I cannot wait to join your community! -Pr. Kevin

Are you gluten free? We're having a meeting about Communion distribution for people who are gluten free. What are we doing that works? What could be better? What might your suggestions be? This meeting will be held next Sunday, March 3, at 9:45 am in the Conference Room. We want to be certain we are welcoming all to communion and meeting everyone's safety and health needs.

Lent & Holy Week Offerings to Support Scholarship Programs in El Salvador and Tanzania ***Can you Pledge a Dollar a Day for the 40 Days of Lent to Give a Child an Education?***

Offerings collected during Lent and Holy Week this year will be used to help students in our partner parishes in El Salvador and Tanzania. These families live in a reality where an education - the very thing that can lift them out of the poverty that surrounds them – is out of reach because of their poverty. You can help end this cycle by pledging a dollar (or more!) per day for the 40 days of Lent – a Lenten discipline that can help young people in El Salvador and Tanzania imagine a different future – one that can give them hope and lift them out of poverty.

Bulletin Insert for Sunday, February 25, 2024

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation in the next few weeks:

All are Welcome. Come when you can! Our Adult Faith Formation hour supports the faith growth of our church and on line community. This is a weekly opportunity to engage your mind in faith related topics, meet others with similar interests and connect with your church community. We gather on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 A.M.

Beginning TODAY:

A Special Series: The Israel-Hamas war: Understanding the ongoing crisis

On Oct. 7, members of the terrorist group Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, killing 1,200 people and kidnapping 200 others. In retaliation, Israeli forces have laid siege to Gaza, where the death toll has now reached 28,000.

What are we to make of all this? At the center of the hostilities are issues of land, millenniums of history and two Abrahamic faiths. Beginning Feb. 25, St. Matthew's will hold three adult forums with religious leaders from our community to provide perspective and background on the conflict:

Feb 25: The ancient roots of the current hostilities

March 3: A Muslim perspective on the Israel-Hamas war

March 17: A Jewish perspective on the Israel-Hamas war

February & March KFC & DOC dates: Join Us for Children's Ministry!

Parents of children in grades 1-5, consider bringing your child for Children's Ministry gatherings. (See the dates below) We will gather for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Join us for pizza and a game of Capture the Flag. Please bring \$5/child for lunch.

Disciples of Christ (4th & 5th grades) Sunday, March 10, 12:00-2:00 pm

Kids for Christ (1st-3rd grades) Sunday, March 3, 12:00-2pm

Sign-up in advance appreciated through church office, office@stmattslutheran.org

Women's Retreat planned March 8-10 at Cedar Valley Retreat Center. A registration flyer is at the Welcome Center, or, contact Sue Swing; sueswing@sbcglobal.net for more info. Sign up now, as there is limited space available. There's also a Saturday-only option for attending. Guest presenter for the weekend is Danette Braun of Abundance Life Coaching.

Women's Group meets next week, March 3 at 9:45 am in the Youth Room. The theme will be "retreat," what retreats mean and different ways to experience them in our busy lives.

First Fridays Book Group Discussion

We meet on the first Friday of each month for a discussion, beginning at 7:00 pm in the Upper Room at church. You can come just for the books you choose to read with us! Or come to all of them. You're sure to enjoy the discussion.

March 1 *Rules of Civility*, by Amor Towles, 335 pages

April 5 *Janesville: An American Story*, by Amy Goldstein, 351 pages

May 3 *The Sweetness of Forgetting* by Kristin Harmel, 367 pages

June 7 *Remarkably Bright Creatures: A Novel* by Shelby Van Pelt, 360 pages

Join your St. Matthew's family on Wednesdays, February 28, March 6, 13 and 20

Morning:

10:00-11:00 am Bible Study with Pastor Ann Williams



Evening:

5:15-6:15 pm Dinner in Fellowship Hall to benefit the Youth Mission Trip
6:15-7:00 pm Family Lenten Time for parents & children with Donna Manke
6:00-7:00 pm Bible Study for adults
5:45-6:30 pm New Creation Choir
6:30-7:00 pm New Generation Choir
7:15 pm Midweek Lenten Taizé Service (30 min.)

Lenten Dinners each Wednesday night *Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans* Dinner will be served by Mission Trip youth from 5:15 to 6:15. Suggested donation for the dinner is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children aged 3-10. Enjoy a healthy, delicious meal without cooking or cleaning up. Menus for each week are:

- February 28th:** Tacos, fruit, vegetables and dip
March 6th: Breakfast! – Breakfast burritos, fruit, sausage, French toast sticks, fruit
March 13th: Baked Potato Bar, salad, fruit
March 20th: Chili, corn bread, fruit, veggies & dip

Midweek Evening Adult Bible Study--Wednesdays 6pm-7pm

For inquiring and spiritual minds, stop by for a midweek session of "God Talk." Adults of all ages, genders, couples, singles all are welcome as we journey through the bible with a new topic and scripture each week. ELCA materials are a starting point. Come for the snacks, stay for the theology!

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

This is the first and greatest commandment." - Jesus

"Be excellent to each other." - Bill Preston, Esquire; Ted Theodore Logan

Parents and Younger Children, Come Join Us on Wednesday nights!

Lenten Family Time, Wednesday evenings, 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.

February 21 - March 20, 2024 -- There are stories, songs, projects, prayer and brief worship, led by Donna Gardner Manke. Children 3rd grade and younger are encouraged to attend with their parents. It's going to be fun. Come join us!

Easter Flowers! We're starting the ordering early, as the deadline for orders is March 17. Pick up an order form at the Welcome Center or across from the church office, fill it out and turn it in with your payment either in the offering plate or in the church office. OR order online on our website home page and pay through our giving page. Help us to fill the front of the church with flowers on that glorious Easter Morning. There is also the opportunity to give to our Lenten Benevolence, which is the Scholarship fund for El Salvadoran and Tanzanian partners. Details in the commons. Order a flower, and add a benevolence gift, if you can. Thank you!

Beer Barons of St. Matthew's - No Skills Required

The Beer Barons have had an excellent turnout the first two months and look to break "liquid bread" yet again in March. As always, drinking is not required, but the Beer Barons invite men of St. Matthew's to meet other men where they're at. Thursday, March 15th, we'll be at J&B's Blue Ribbon Bar and Grill, co-owned by St. Matthew's Bliesner family, at 5230 W. Bluemound Rd. from 8-10pm. We'll be gathered in the back hall.

Middle School Game Day, March 17th

If you're in middle school, it's your lucky day! There will be games, pizza, and maybe even a surprise at the end of the rainbow! We'll start at noon with lunch and end the fun at 2:00. Please bring \$5 for pizza.

A Need for Child Care: Jenni Reinke, daughter of Fred and Rita Reinke, is seeking in-home daycare for 6 month old baby girl, 3 days a week about 20-24 hours total....days and hours flexible. Another option would be a Nanny for both the 6 month old and her 2 year old big sister...15-18 hours per week, days and hours flexible. Please contact Jenni Reinke if you can offer resources or suggestions. jenni.reinke@gmail.com or 414-793-5879 and feel free to leave a message.

Valparaiso University Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will give a concert at on Monday, March 4, 2024 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Waukesha, beginning at 7:00 pm This concert is free and open to the public. The conductor is Dr. Marin Jacobson and the organist is Dr. John Schwandt. This is a great opportunity to hear some quality music performed by talented college students.

Thank you to our Assistants for worship services today!

(It's possible some of these people have switched dates since the bulletin was printed on Thursday morning. "Open" means this spot was not filled when bulletin was printed.)

Volunteer Host: Flash Gordon

Acolytes: (8:30) Chase Assenheimer, Levi Kirchner. (11:00) Lily Wiemer.

Coffee Hosts: Jenny Acompanado.

Communion Preparers: (8:30) Marian Benz, Carrie Ralfs. (11:00) Ruth Kallio-Mielke.

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Chuck Crook, Tim Goetsch. (11:00) Joyce Biehn, Kristin Hanson.

Greeters: (8:30) Laura Goeckermann, Christy & Craig Siwy. (11:00) Jacob Dahlgren, Laura Murray, Kate Searing.

Lay Readers: (8:30) Doreen Steinbock. (11:00) Carl Johnson.

Ushers: (8:30) John Charlson, Dave Fagerberg, Mary Ann Gordon, Mary Ellen Millenbach, Rob Sholl, Jim Bowen, *captain*. (11:00) Steve Mielke, Luke Swalheim.

Lay Assistant: (8:30) Annette Olson.

Welcome Center Host: (8:30) Diann Lebow.

Library Assistant: Peggy Klemme.

Stephen Minister: Sue Swing.

Worship Technology: (8:30) Owen Schaar. (9:45) Ed Bross. (11:00) Stephen Skaife, Conor Williams.