

THE VOICE of St. Matthew's

Volume 93, No. 4 - April 1, 2024

This Holy Season at St. Matthew's
Come to Worship
During Holy Week, Easter Sunday
and The Easter Season



Maundy Thursday Worship, March 28

7:00 pm with Holy Communion, followed by Healing

Good Friday Worship, March 29

10:00 am Children's Service and 7:00 pm Adult Service with 7 Last Words

Easter Sunday Worship, March 31

8:30 and 11:00 am Festive Services with Breakfast by Youth between services

Sunday after Easter, April 7th

8:30 and 11:00 am The Resurrection Celebration continues

Sunday, April 14th

8:30 and 11:00 am The Installation of Lead Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar



Pastor's Voice

Life and Death and Resurrection

My father-in-law died unexpectedly on March 10th. Jay's family lives in Colorado and it is a strange thing to get such terrible news and then just go about your regular routine. We're not doing any of the stuff people do when someone dies until after Easter. And here's another strange thing— after proclaiming, "Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed!" our family will be plunged right back into the reality of death. Life and death and resurrection all mixed up together which is, of course, always how life and death and resurrection work. Funerals make you thankful for life and births make you recall those who have gone before. Lately, "bittersweet" is a word that often comes to mind.

Every year, when I think about and experience Holy Week, I try to remember that the disciples went through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday without knowing that Easter Sunday was just a few days away. They saw their friend and Lord put on trial, beaten and crucified and knew in their bones that it was the end. They didn't have a pastel outfit in the closet or pre-ordered lilies waiting in the wings. There was only death and deep grief.

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

Called to fulfill the Great Commission, St. Matthew's Welcomes all to faith in Jesus Christ, Nurtures our faith journey, Equips us to serve others, and Sends us into the world to make a difference in Jesus' name.

The Voice of St. Matthew's

The newsletter of St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

Kevin Kretzmann Farrar, Lead Pastor
Ann Williams, Associate Pastor

414-774-0441; E-mail: office@stmattslutheran.org

Visit our website: www.StMattsLutheran.org

Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

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Resurrection doesn't mean anything unless death is real and final.

Death is very real for my family this year. My kids have never had a loved-one die and they've never been to a funeral (currently, neither of them even own appropriate funeral clothes!) And yet, on Easter morning, we will still say with the rest of the congregation that God has the last word and that word is always "yes" that word is always, always "life."

My son will turn twelve years old on April 6th and we will lay Bill to rest on April 6th. He's not thrilled about how the timing worked out but, perhaps, it is a true reflection of what it means to be Easter people—life and death and resurrection all mixed up together. Alleluia.

Pastor Ann

Join Us During Holy Week The last few days of March

Maundy Thursday, March 28

7:00pm *(no morning service)*

Confession, forgiveness, and Holy Communion, followed by healing services. Morning and evening services are the same.

Good Friday, March 29

10:00am Children's Good Friday Service

Children and parents (and grandparents) are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall for a craft, then enjoy an egg hunt - bring a basket or bag - and then end with an age-appropriate Good Friday worship service in the church.

7:00pm Good Friday Worship Service

A dramatic service of light into darkness with special music and a Good Friday message of hope.

Easter Festival Services, Sunday, March 31

8:30 and 11:00am

Join the faith community of St. Matthew's as we gather to celebrate our hope and promise of Easter with choirs, brass, handbells and joyous hymns. Holy Communion is celebrated at both services. Join us after 8:30 worship or before the 11:00am service for a Easter breakfast with treats with proceeds benefiting our youth and Youth Mission Trip this summer.



Join us for Breakfast on Easter Sunday--

A Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip

Join us for breakfast on Easter Sunday from 9:30- 10:45. There will be springtime ambience and plenty of table room in Fellowship Hall to enjoy pastries, fruit, and a scrambled egg bar with lots of toppings. You can even assemble your own breakfast burrito.

Youth who are participating in this summer's Mission Trip to New Orleans will be involved in prepping and serving the breakfast. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children aged 3-11, and kids under 3 free. We appreciate your support of the Mission Trip!



With Joy We Invite You to
The Installation of
**St. Matthew's Lead Pastor
Kevin Kretzmann Farrar**
Sunday, April 14th, 2024
8:30 and 11:00 am Services
with Guest Preacher
The Reverend Bishop Paul Erickson
Celebration Reception Between Services
in the Upper Commons

*"May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace in faith so that you
overflow with hope by the power of the
Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13*



Middle School Service Saturday Event April 20th!

Middle School students are encouraged to join us on Saturday, April 20th to serve our community by volunteering with area ministries, followed by a debriefing activity. The goal is to gain a deeper understanding of our neighborhood at large, including the ways that people are challenged by poverty and food insecurity and the ways that we can help make a difference.

Watch the bulletin and your emails for more details.

Join St. Matthew's Faith Community!

New Member Classes on April 7th and April 21st

God has given us the gift of Christian community. It provides for two of our most basic needs. The church can be a place to belong and a place to become! Our next series of new member classes begins soon, and we invite you to join us. Classes will take place on Sunday mornings, April 7th and April 21st, from 9:45-10:45 AM. The classes offer an introduction to our congregation, how to find your faith fed and nurtured, how and why we serve our neighbors, and what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. This time together helps us to get to know you personally and provides space for you to interact with church members as well as others interested in joining St. Matthew's Church. A mailing has been sent out to those known to be interested in learning more about membership with St. Matthew's. Contact Sue Swing or the church office for more information.

Adult Faith Formation - Come, learn and grow!

Adult Faith Formation, 9:45-10:45 am Sundays

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 9:45-10:45am.

April 7th & April 21st Special Focus on New Members!

Pastor Kevin, along with Sue Swing, will be leading the New Member classes on these two dates and we encourage our adult education audience to be part of both classes! This will be a great opportunity for all to learn more about the ELCA, Stewardship, Spiritual Gifts & Serving. There will be time to share and connect with one another and we hope you will join with us to offer a warm welcome to our new member group!

April 14th--No Adult Education

Reception for the installation of Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar. Join us to celebrate this historic day at St. Matthew's as our lead pastor is installed.

April 28th Pastor Ann with "Stories and a Sabbatical"

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! Here's the list through the end of this season.

- 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



Large crowds have attended the 3-part series on the Holy Land, wanting to learn more about the long conflict.

The 3-part adult education series on the Conflict in the Holy Land can be accessed on our Youtube page, allowing you to watch the videos of the presentations any time. Go to our Youtube page: [Youtube.com/StMattsTosa](https://www.youtube.com/StMattsTosa) and search for adult education playlist.



Conor Williams invited Janan Najeeb to share her insights as a woman with Palestinian roots with family still living there. She is the president of the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Association and the president of the MICAH Clergy Group.

Dan Bice gave a presentation on the history of the conflict in the Holy Land from early times and how the land is divided now and why it's in conflict.



Moshe Katz (*right*) spoke from the perspective as a Jewish person with a residence in Tel-Aviv. He was born and educated in the U.S. and has also lived in Israel. He works in real estate in Milwaukee, and has a masters degree in Jewish education.

April is Family Strengthening Month

This month and throughout the year, St. Matthew's is committed to supporting family strengthening efforts in our church, our neighborhoods, and our world. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment. Positive childhood experiences in nurturing environments provide fertile ground for children's physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental health, along with their learning, and social skill development.

Here are a few ways that St. Matthew's supports families:

- **Establishing a Playground in our sanctuary so that kids can participate in worship in an age-appropriate way.**
- **Offering a Family Time, including crafts, music, and an age-appropriate lesson, and a community meal every Wednesday in Lent**
- **Ensuring all staff and volunteers who work with minors regularly complete a background check.**
- **Offering a vibrant, interactive Sunday School during the school year and VBS over the summer**
- **Conducting a regular review of our child protection policies in order to ensure our policies adhere to best practices, including our current process of updating our child protection team.**



Small acts have huge impact! Here are some ways that you can support family strengthening:

- **Taking time to talk to parents in your neighborhood – get to know them.**
- **Sharing local resources with families.**
- **Advocating for legislation and funding which support family programs within your community.**
- **Donating new or gently used clothing and toys to programs that support families with children.**
- **Bringing a meal or groceries to a family with young children.**
- **Organizing a family fun event such as a family story night, game, or movie night.**

Looking for more ideas?

Check out Wisconsin's Family Strengthening Toolkit here: <https://preventionboard.wi.gov/Pages/OurWork/April.aspx>

We are building strong families together! For more information about family strengthening and child well-being at St. Matthew's please contact Council President Carl Johnson at CarlJohnson1023@outlook.com and Pastor Ann Williams at pastorannwilliams@gmail.com. Let's work together to build healthier, safe, and thriving communities that support our children and families!

Children's Clothing Swap returns!

We welcome back this wonderful event where you can come recycle your gently used children's articles while finding new gems for your own young ones. It's easy, fun and environmentally friendly.

Date: Sunday, April 14th

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Place: Commons area - outside library



Simply bring your kids' outgrown or unwanted clothes (size newborn through size 14), shoes and accessories and swap them for other items. We only ask that the clothes you bring are appropriate for spring/summer and in relatively good condition. If possible, please group clothing by size and mark the size on the bag/box. Clothing may be dropped off at the church office from April 2 – April 13th (labeled "Clothing Swap") or brought to the Commons on the morning of the swap. We ask for clothing only; no toys or children's furniture.

All unclaimed items will be given to Tosa Cares Food Pantry and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

We'll meet on Saturday April 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commons to sort and display the clothes for the swap. Join us as we welcome back this popular clothing swap!

Attention Parents! (and parents-to-be)

Next Baptism class- Apr. 14, 9:45 am

The purpose of the class is to:

- learn about the theology behind this sacrament
- be prepared for the commitment made during the baptism itself
- know how to make baptism part of your family life at home
- ask questions about god parents, scheduling the date and other details
- meet other parents who are raising children in the church



If you want to have your child baptized or if you are expecting a child, please plan to attend. RSVP to the church office, office@stmattslutheran.org or 414.774.0441

SAINTS St. Matt's Older Adult Ministry

Please Join Us for these Two Great Spring Offerings!

Wednesday, April 17 beginning at 11:30am
**“Milwaukee’s Love Affair with Baseball –
The Story of a City and a Sport”**

With Dr. Stephen Hauser



Join us for some baseball fun just two weeks after the Brewers win their home opener. Dr. Stephen Hauser will present a baseball talk to be enjoyed by people who don't even like baseball. His historical presentation opens in 1859 and will carry us to the arrival of the Milwaukee

Braves in 1953. The professor promises no box scores or records to remember, just a delightful ride through Milwaukee's past.

A fifth-generation and lifelong Wisconsin resident, Dr. Hauser recently retired after 40 years as a history professor at Marquette University. He is the contributing author of several books, and is instrumental in the vitality of the Elmbrook Historical Society.

Wednesday, May 15 beginning at 11:30am
“Joys of Birding – Wehr the Birds Are”

Presented by Holly Walz, Park Naturalist at Wehr Nature Center



From beginning birder as a child to present day full-fledged adult bird nerd, Holly will bring stories and photographs from her life experiences watching birds, personally and professionally.

Come to learn about birds found in the Milwaukee area - from our everyday Wisconsin State Bird the American Robin, to the migrating warblers that pass through on their way to nesting sites far and wide, to oddities that pop in from time to time.

Can you identify birds when you see them? What if you can hear the bird but cannot find it anywhere? Find out where birds are found in their habitat - from the highs to the lows, evergreen or coniferous, and wet to dry. Learn to identify them from field marks, calls, and songs. We'll use ornithologist tips and tricks from the field to learn the locals.

Bring your own birding questions.

Saints is St. Matthew's Older Adults Ministry which meets monthly for fellowship, devotion, entertainment and a box lunch (suggested donation \$12). Sign up in advance is appreciated, by 9am of the Monday before the gathering. All older adults are welcome, as well as friends from outside our congregation. Sign up at the Welcome Center or church office, 414.774.0441.

Erickson Scholarship Applicants Apply now for scholarship consideration

It is time to apply or renew your application for a scholarship from the Rev. Gary and Susan Erickson scholarship Fund for the 2024-2025 school year.

Eligibility is based on:

- 1) **Students studying at a theological seminary;**
- 2) **Students enrolled in a bachelor of arts music program with intent to work in church related music;**
- 3) **Students enrolled in ELCA college or any Lutheran college.**



THE REV. GARY & SUSAN ERICKSON
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Applications can be found at the church office or online at www.stmattslutheran.org or request the document by email to <office@stmattslutheran.org> Any questions regarding the scholarship or application may be addressed to Al Van Lith or Nancy Herrell. The deadline for applications is **June 15, 2024**.

We're looking for volunteers to attend the Synod Assembly

What is it? Taking place each spring, the Synod Assembly brings together voting members from the ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod congregations to engage in conversation and to vote on resolutions, elect synod council and committee representatives, consider finances and other business.

The voting business takes place on Saturday, May 18th between 8:30 and 4:30. On Friday evening, May 17th, there will be an optional dinner and keynote speaker. This speaker is Vance Blackfox, an indigenous theologian and citizen of the Cherokee Nation, who serves the ELCA as Director of Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations.

Interested in attending? Contact the church office, or speak to either Pastor Kevin or Pastor Ann. Carl Johnson and Beth Schulz are attending from St. Matthew's, and we are looking for 2-3 more attendees.

We need to register by April 16th, so please let us know now if you are interested.

Blessings

A Stephen Ministry Value

A Reflection from Heather Deaton, St. Matt's Stephen Minister

As Stephen Ministers, we continue to learn and grow individually and together through our twice-a-month continuing education sessions. Carl Johnson, Stephen Ministry Leader, recently led us through a lesson on giving and receiving Christian blessings. We discussed and reflected on what "giving and receiving a blessing" meant to each of us. My mind immediately thought of the rote and immediate response to another person's sneeze – this lesson was clearly going to take deeper thought. Carl shared that a blessing is 'the bestowing of something with grace, holiness, spiritual redemption or divine will.' So much more than a sneeze.... How do I and how can I bestow grace and redemption to my family, co-workers, neighbors, the community? I had to think about what actions from others make me feel loved, accepted, protected, safe. It became clear to me that sharing encouraging words, forgiveness, a listening ear, a smile, or a pat on the arm are Blessings we can easily give to each other. Additionally, we wrote our own blessings to use as mini-prayers with and for others. Carl shared through several Bible verses – examples include 2 Corinthians 13:14 and Ephesians 3:17-19 – and blessings from other cultures and faiths. Reading the examples inspired my short and simple blessing:

"May God fill your path with strength, endurance and encouragement."

Heather Deaton, St. Matt's Stephen Minister



Stephen Ministers, including Heather Deaton, are currently available to offer support, encouragement and prayer. This can be a short-term relationship--perhaps a temporary life situation like a job change, parenting challenges, caring for a loved one. If you find yourself talking about the same situation often and with a variety of people it could mean you need a Stephen Minister! They really help by listening to your concerns and can serve as a sounding board while providing a supportive and non-judgmental presence. Stephen Ministers also serve in long-term relationships when the need for plenty of time and space is present. They are ready to walk with you for as long as you need! Take care of yourself or someone you love by reaching out to Stephen Ministry today! Contact Sue Swing or Pastor Ann for info.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

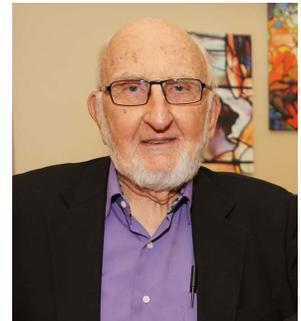
Men's Breakfast on April 20 to feature famous Milwaukee Civil Rights Leader Pastor Joseph Ellwanger *Breakfast begins at 7:30am*

Men of St. Matthew's, bring your friends and come hear a great speaker after a delicious breakfast at the next Men's Breakfast gathering on Saturday, April 20 from 7:30-9:00 am. The Rev. Joseph Ellwanger is a man who once fought on the frontlines of the Civil Rights movement in this country. "The issues that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference were up against and working to change were issues that I saw, that I understood, that I felt deeply about," Ellwanger says. "... people do not see the inequality and the injustice of these realities." Ellwanger was also part of a group of clergy who met with President Lyndon Johnson in 1965 to support the Voting Rights Act.

Pastor Joe also has written a book "Strength for the Struggle" in which he shares his experiences and wisdom as a pastor in times of great social struggle, encouraging people to know that they are called by God and surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses to live and act courageously.

In Milwaukee, Pastor Joe served as pastor of Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, our partner congregation, for 34 years, retiring in 2001. He has continued to be active in social justice ministries throughout the area ever since.

Join us on April 20 for this inspirational time together.



Stitches of Love Quilt Ministry

**Spring is here with colorful quilts!
Work with us on April 27th**

The final workshop of the season will take place on Saturday, April 27th in Fellowship Hall from 9am-1pm. Easy tasks for all! Come when your schedule allows and bring your lunch and beverage to enjoy during the devotion time. This will be the final workshop before the Mother's Day blessing on Sunday, May 12th. We will concentrate on finishing up all quilts before the blessing and distribution of the quilts in the community. Please contact Bev Etzelmueller at 262-250-3969 or bevetz@sbcglobal.net with any questions. See you there!

What happened at the last meeting?

The Stitches of Love January workshop volunteers embraced the many blessings of a community working together. We had three new attendees who offered their enthusiasm and joy of placing together quilt pieces – welcome! The group also boxed up multiple blankets, quilts and clothing items for the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, which were successfully received. The Thrivent Action Grant of \$250 covered the majority of the postage with UPS generously covering the remainder of the balance. We are thankful for so many blessings.



Theresa Zwaska and Linda Kuether pin a block quilt at the Blitz on January, when much was accomplished, including boxing up quilts for distribution.



Kristen Etzelmueller (left) and Kathie Richards work together tying a quilt with yarn.

UNDIE SUNDAY Collection now UNDERway!

You can bring UNDIE garments for those in need until April 21. Ladies' undergarments will go to the Benedict Center serving women and men's underwear will go to the Guest House. *See below for descriptions of the work of these organizations.*

Here's a listing of what we collect:

Men's briefs or boxer briefs (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2X and 3X)

Men's Socks, size 6-12

Women's panties, sizes 4-24

Women's Bras, sizes 34A - 42C

Women's Socks

Women's Pajamas & long underwear, sizes up to 2X

Bring your donations to the wooden collection box outside the church office.



Here's why we hold the Undie Sunday Collection:

Guest House

The Guest House provides holistic care to those experiencing homelessness, addressing the root causes and developing an individualized plan for independence. They house 86 men overnight each night of the year.

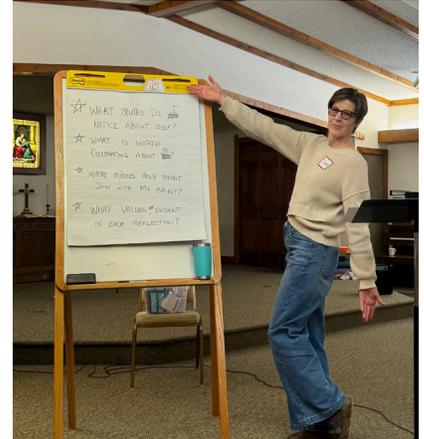
Benedict Center Sisters' Program

The Sisters Program helps women in the street-based sex trade find hope and live healthier and safer lives through a harm reduction and housing-first approach.

Many women at the Sisters Program have dealt with violence all their lives including childhood sexual abuse, repeated sexual assaults as a teen and adult, violent relationships and past experiences of being trafficked as well as current traffickers controlling them.

Many of the issues women face are systemic harms - poverty, substance use disorders, and homelessness - that require community solutions like more affordable housing, more living-wage jobs and changes to policies that stop women from making progress in their lives.

Women's Ministry



Danette Braun of Abundance Life Coaching led the retreat, with a focus on helping participants determine their core values.

Women's Ministry Retreat a special time for reflection on core values

The 2024 Women's Retreat was held at Cedar Valley Retreat Center in West Bend. Our retreat was centered in this verse from Romans 8:16-"For the Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children."

Gloria Potter led off our time together on Friday night with a beautiful devotion, reminding us that we are loved, chosen and blessed as children of God.

Danette Braun, retreat facilitator, guided us in discovering our core values through reflection, conversation, and journaling throughout the weekend. Katie Nickel kept us moving with Yoga and Aerobics!

Pastor Ann and Gloria brought the weekend to a close with a meaningful worship service where we celebrated our baptism and shared communion with one another. It was a lovely weekend for all of us as we affirmed our foundation as God's Beloved!



Katie Nickel, St. Matthew's Women's Group leader, helped the group to use their bodies through yoga and aerobics. She is a fitness professional by training.



Sunday Morning Women's Group

Our next meeting is Sunday, April 7th 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Youth Room. Led by Katie Nickel. All are welcome!



A unique aspect of the Cedar Valley Retreat Center is the llamas on site.



There was time for self-reflection and journaling.

Wednesdays in Lent: A great time for fellowship and faith growth



Lenten Family Time for younger children and parents was an opportunity to sing, pray, and learn about God's love. Donna Manke (right) was assisted by daughter Averie Manke Knutson to lead the sessions, which often included a skit.



Donations are still being accept for Lent Offerings to Support Scholarship Programs in El Salvador and Tanzania

Offerings collected during Lent and Holy Week this year will be used to help students in our partner parishes in El Salvador and Tanzania. For many families in both countries, the yearly cost of an education for one child can exceed the average monthly income for the family, especially for secondary education, when costs can become prohibitive. 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 helping young people in El Salvador and Tanzania imagine a different future - one that can give them hope and lift them out of poverty. Donations accepted any time during the Easter season.



Lenten worship services on Wednesday evenings set a tone of quiet reflection with a beautiful display of candles around the chancel.

Thanks for Eating with Us for Lent and Easter!

Thank you to all of you who joined us for dinner during Lent. It was good to gather for fellowship and connection over a hot meal! We are also grateful to the small groups and ministry groups that sponsored each meal to help us keep our costs down. Thank you to The Sunday Morning Women's Group, The Men's Group, and the Church Council for supplying food. And thanks to Pam Stokke-Ceci, Darla Hium, and Sarah Zello and their small group for getting the groceries and also making the delicious chili for the last meal!

We are grateful to all of you for your support of the Youth Mission Trip by attending these meals!



The Adult Bible Study, led by Dave & Robbie Locher (far right of photo), meets each Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:00pm

Bulletin Board

Office Closed April 1st: The church office will be closed the day after Easter, Monday, April 1st.

St. Matthew's to Serve as Polling Site on April 2

Due to the remodeling construction going on at the Muellner Building in Hart Park, the City of Wauwatosa has asked to use our location as a place for people to vote on April 2. If you happen to stop by church on this day, you will notice extra people in the building. We are glad to be able to host this important community function in our space.

Beer Barons of St. Matthew's - April Fundraiser

The Beer Barons of St. Matthew's convene once again this April, as they do every month, on the third Thursday of each month - this time April 18th. This month's gathering takes place at The Gathering Place - Tosa Tap Room, located at 7208 W. North Ave. The generous owner has pledged to donate 20% of the proceeds from our gathering back to St. Matthew's for a designated benevolent cause! While drinking is not required, the Beer Barons extend a warm invitation to the men of St. Matthew's to join in, connecting with others over 'liquid bread' and supporting a noble endeavor.

Thursday, April 18, 8:00-10:00pm
Tosa Tap Room
7208 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa

Each time there is a new baptism: " *We promise to support your parents...*"

During the rite of baptism on Sunday mornings, the congregation makes a promise to pray for those baptized. To help us to offer prayers in a more intentional way, we list some of those baptized during recent months in the last three years at St. Matthew's. May their lives be blessed through your prayers.

Gavin Robert Freund April 3, 2022
Corinne Reynolds McCarthy April 24, 2022
Samuel David Seagren April 7, 2019
Harrison Robert Paul Bullis April 7, 2019

Upcoming Healing Prayer Opportunities:

Maundy Thursday, March 28, after services
Sunday, April 21, in worship at 8:30 & 11:00

All those desiring private healing prayers for themselves or others are welcome to attend.

Save the Date June 1st for the Ray Of Hope

Run in memory of Brenda Ray and others who bravely endured ovarian cancer. Details on website: rayofhoperun.org

Our Church Family

Larry Herte died on March 11. Larry was a lifelong member of St. Matthew's, baptized here 74 years ago. He is survived by his sisters, Chris Herte and Jody (Joe) Vitello. Larry worshiped regularly and served as an usher and greeter along with his sister Chris. He worked for 40 years at Goodwill, taking the bus or riding the Goodwill transportation to get to work. He very much enjoyed bowling, and also getting to go to Easter Seals respite camp for two weeks each summer. His hobbies included many favorite TV shows and doing word searches.



Visitation and Funeral will take place at St. Matthew's on **Saturday, April 13**, with visitation beginning at 12:00 noon followed by the service at 12:30 pm.

Sunday School Countdown: Sunday School will resume after Easter Break on Sunday, April 7th. First through fifth graders will have a big group in Fellowship Hall that day. All other grades will go to their classrooms. The last day of Sunday School this year is May 19th.



The 1st-5th grade Sunday School classes learned about the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son (the Prodigal Son) in rotational Sunday School. In the Science Workshop, kids predicted the outcome of experiments and were surprised by some of the results, just as the prodigal son was surprised by his father's reaction when he returned home. God's love surprises us every day!



St. Matthew's

Ev. Lutheran Church ✝ ELCA
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
www.stmattslutheran.org

PERIODICALS RATE

Mail Carrier: Please deliver by March 30, 2024.

The Voice of St. Matthew's

We are called to welcome, nurture, equip and send

Next issue of the VOICE is dated May 5, 2024.

Our Church Council Leaders for 2024



At Pastor Kevin's first council meeting, the council had dinner together before the meeting.

St. Matthew's Church Council 2024: (Back row, l-r) Fred Heim, Michael Wolaver, Carl Johnson (president). (Front row, l-r) Cathy Shaw, Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar, Rob Sholl, Alice Rudebusch. Not available for the photo: Laura Hyland and Pastor Ann Williams



In the Art classroom, kids talked about how all of the parables show us how much God loves us, and they made hearts using the Iris Paper folding technique. In this photo, second graders display their creations.



The 5-K class had fun decorating and cutting out shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day.