

THE VOICE of St. Matthew's

Volume 92, No. 7 - August 6, 2023



“Glance at the sun. See the moon and the stars. Gaze at the beauty of earth’s greenings. Now, think. What delight God gives to humankind with all these things. All nature is at the disposal of humankind. We are to work with it. For without it we cannot survive.”

- Hildegard of Bingen

Our Pastor's Voice

About our smallest worshipers

After our most recent annual meeting, Pastor Karen pointed out how many members had joined St. Matt's through baptism. This was her next question: "How are we ministering to those families? Or should I just invite them to Sunday School when their child turns three?" Good question, Pastor Karen! So, several of us started thinking, talking, listening and dreaming about what ministry for children ages 0-3 might look like. And the truth is, that ministry looks a lot like... worship. Children learn through movement, play and story. They mimic the actions of their parents and older siblings. Their brains grow through music and repetition. Worship is the perfect place for small children to learn about God.

Every time we baptize a child, the congregation recites these words, "We welcome you into the Body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world." Which means, we recognize the youngest among us as fellow members of the Body of Christ—worthy of a sacred place and sacred work for the sake of the Gospel. We don't have to wait until children are verbal, or until they are of Sunday school age, or until they can show us they understand something about faith. Our baptismal life begins as soon as we are baptized!



"The first three years of life are a time of remarkable neuroplasticity for children eager to learn about the world around them. That world can include facets of Bible stories, worship and other faith practices." - Living Lutheran article

So, in order to involve and engage even our smallest members, St. Matt's is going to try something new—an experiment, if you will. During the Fall season, there will be a designated space in the sanctuary for children. It will be close enough to the chancel that those children will be able to see what is happening up front. Some chairs and benches will be removed to accommodate this area. Things will look different and things will sound different. We will tweak and rearrange as necessary because I'm sure we'll learn a lot as we go. But St. Matt's has had a lot of experience with changes in our worship life and our worship space over the past several years. I'm certain we can adapt and stretch!

The spiritual practices of prayer, regular participation in worship, receiving the good gifts of God and reverence for what is holy in this world are present and active in young children even before they can speak! I'm excited to see where this experiment leads us.

Do you have questions? Are you curious? Watch for other articles, information and an Adult Forum focusing on the brain development of children ages 0-3. And don't forget to thank the (tired) parents of these kids for bringing them to church!

Pastor Ann Williams

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
 Karen Natterstad, Interim Lead Pastor
 Ann Williams, Associate Pastor
 1615 N. Wauwatosa Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213
 414-774-0441; E-mail: office@stmattslutheran.org
 Visit our website: www.StMattsLutheran.org

Summer Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m.
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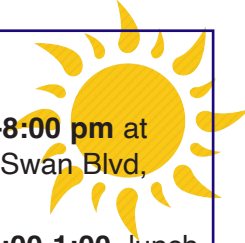
Upcoming Events

Summer St. Matt's Meet-Ups:

Thursday, August 17th from 5:00-8:00 pm at The Landing at Hoyt Park, 1800 N. Swan Blvd, Wauwatosa.

Thursday, September 7th from 11:00-1:00, lunch at Ally's Powerhouse, 10460 W. Innovation Drive, Wauwatosa

All are welcome; join us for fellowship! We've been enjoying some beautiful weather for these gatherings. Come take advantage of our Wisconsin summers while we have warm weather.



Music Staff News



Meet Alexa Doebele on August 20

We welcome Dr. Alexa Doebele who will be joining us as our Interim Senior Choir Director this Fall. Alexa will be singing a solo in worship at our 9:30 service on August 20th. We invite you to greet her after worship to welcome her and introduce yourself.

Dr. Doebele is a professor of music and director of choral activities at Concordia University in Mequon. She conducts 3 choirs, in addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in music education, conducting, and choral literature. She is a frequent clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor, and is active as an editor of choral music. Dr. Doebele is also active as both a solo and choral singer, having appeared with the Milwaukee Chamber Choir, Vox Antiqua, the Milwaukee Choral Artists, the Colorado Conductors' Chorus, the Ars Nova Singers, St. Martin's Chamber Choir, the Boulder Chorale, the Littleton Chorale, and the Colorado Symphony Chorus.



Dr Alexa Doebele
Interim Choir Director

We are most happy she will be sharing her faith and music with the singers and congregation.

One of the most wonderful rewards of being part of a musical ensemble is the opportunity to create something more beautiful than any one musician could create alone. When you contribute your talents to the musical and spiritual life of the church, you help enrich our collective congregation and nurture the spirit of all. We invite everyone to come and sing praises to our Lord this Fall Season.

John R. Paradowski

Sign up now to join the Adult Mission Trip 2023

We are going to go to New Orleans, LA for our Adult Mission Trip this year. We will be traveling Sunday October 15 and returning Saturday October 21.

We will be working for Opportunity Housing. These are houses that SBP is building for people who lost their homes to Hurricanes Katrina, Isaac and Ida.

We will have a meeting in early September to go over details on the trip. If you are interested in going, please let Al in the office know. We would like to get a firm list together so we can fine tune our budget.

This will be a self-funded trip that will bring together a group of adults with a common purpose and also gives us time for fellowship with each other. We are estimating a cost of \$900 to \$1,100. This cost will cover flights, transportation and most of the food. We will be able to get a more specific budget once we get a solid count.

If you are interested, please let either Al know by the end of August.

If you have any questions, you can contact Al Land at mktval@wi.rr.com or Al Van Lith at al@stmatthslutheran.org



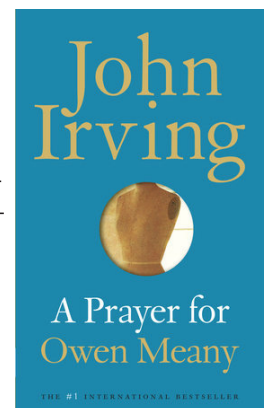
It's time to start reading for St. Matthew's First Fridays Book Discussion Group!

You decide which books you wish to read for the discussions you wish to participate in

Friday, Oct. 6 [A Prayer for Owen Meany](#) by John Irving, 627 pages

Friday, Nov. 3 [That Good Night: Life and Medicine in the Eleventh Hour](#) by Sunita Puri, 301 pages

Friday, Dec. 1 [American Dirt: A Novel](#), by Jeanine Cummins, 386 pages



Discussions begin at 7pm on the dates listed. Questions? Contact Fred Heim, book group facilitator. Church office staff can provide contact information if needed.

Upcoming Events

Welcoming all into the Community of Christ Join us on August 13 to share one-on-one experiences, 10:30am

We are on a journey together, here at St. Matthew's, to move forward with our commitment to be a welcoming & affirming congregation. One of the ways we can go about this is to focus on relationship building, a principle that Jesus valued and made central to His ministry. Many people who attended the spring adult forum classes on becoming a welcoming congregation volunteered to be partnered with another for a One-to-One visit this summer.

What is a One-to-One visit?

A face to face conversation where specific questions are used to explore shared values and experiences.

An opportunity to learn about what matters to another through hospitable curiosity.

A way to understand the personal motivations each person has for volunteering or engaging in social justice work.

A chance to talk deeply with another about a few things instead of covering multiple surface level topics.

The point of these one-to-one conversations is not to get a specific set of answers from those in our faith community, rather, it is about building relationships. It has been a gift to create community in this way and we look forward to gathering on Sunday, August 13th at 10:30 a.m. to talk about the experience.

All are welcome to join in on this conversation on August 13th! You do not need to have participated in the one-to-one visits to attend.



Pastor Carolyn Fredriksen is guest preacher on August 6



Pastor Carolyn Fredriksen, a Wisconsin native, retired in 2020 after serving at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Greendale, Wisconsin for 20 years. During her ministry she served congregations in Wisconsin Rapids, Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Rockford, Illinois. Pr. Carolyn, along with her husband John, enjoys traveling, golfing (John not so much), walking, biking (the kind you pedal), AND she can tell you how they put the holes in Swiss cheese.

Men: You're Invited to the MEN'S BREAKFAST

on September 23, 7:30 to 9:00am

Enjoy a morning of Great Food (including bacon!), Great Fellowship, and a Great Message

Meet fellow men of St. Matthew's and feel free to invite your friends! Free will offering accepted

Speaker: Allen Ruppel

Allen Ruppel is the founder of Unity in Motion and served as the organization's Executive Director for the first 20 years. He is currently serving as Development Director.

Allen built the program from a karate class to a non-profit corporation that works with Milwaukee central city youth starting as early as K4 and supports them all the way through post-secondary education offering numerous programs and services.

Allen is also Co-Founder and President of the Unity in Hope School System Inc. (started in 2019) operating in the poorest area of Islamabad, Pakistan. The school's objective is to provide non-Muslim children an opportunity to obtain a quality education not otherwise available to non-Muslim children. Unity in Hope starts with quality instruction, clean water, and food; ending with providing the children a safe and good education.

He is currently the Treasurer on the Board of Directors for the Hope Christian Schools network and a member of the Board of Directors for the Center for Urban Teaching.

His past experience includes over 15 years as a manager at Northwestern Mutual and time in the US Navy on board a nuclear submarine.



SAINTS

St. Matthew's Older Adults Ministry August Saints Gathering "Let's get Tornado-Ready!" Wednesday, August 16, 2023

We're looking forward to the August intergenerational gathering when we will welcome meteorologist Drew Burgoyne from CBS 58-TV.

Tornado Ready is coming to St. Matthew's! CBS 58 Chief Meteorologist Drew Burgoyne will talk about the power of Wisconsin severe weather with interactive videos and experiments. The gathering begins at 11:30, with Drew Burgoyne beginning his presentation about 11:45 am.

Plan now for the children in your life who might like to attend. Grandchildren? Neighbors? All are welcome. There will be lunch offered for adults, as usual, suggested donation of \$11, and free snacks for the children. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office. Indicate how many lunches you'd like to order as well as how many children will be accompanying you.

Special thanks to the Saints planning committee, made up of Roz Rouse, Linda Levengood, Chris Schroeder, and assisted by staff members Pastor Karen Natterstad, Sue Swing, and Bridget Smith.



**CBS 58-TV
Chief Meteorologist
Drew Burgoyne**



THANK YOU to all the volunteers at St. Matt's

This is a big THANK YOU to all those who volunteer every Sunday morning at St. Matthew's. Your services to St. Matt's do not go unnoticed.

Being signed up to be a volunteer on Sunday morning is a gift to the church. Being able to be part of the worship service provides personal fulfillment. We count on all our volunteers to be present.

Every Sunday morning, we will need over 40 volunteers to provide a complete service to our congregation. Each position is very important and integral to the flow of our services. Between Worship Technology, Ushers, Lay Readers, Communion Help, Greeters and Acolytes, all are needed to make the services run smoothly. If someone does not come, we need to find a way to fill that position.

If you have not volunteered before but would like to try it now, please see the display on the Welcome Center table that shows all of the ministries our volunteers do. If you want to be a volunteer, let Al know in the office at al@stmattlutheran.org or call (414) 774-0441 and we can get you added to our system.

We utilize Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) to assist us with all our volunteer positions. This application allows us to assign volunteers and teams to each position. We can also use the system to notify every one of their pending schedule. It allows you to let us know when you cannot make a given weekend before a schedule is produced. It also allows for you to request substitutes when a last minute change to your schedule requires a sub.

In a few weeks, there will be an email sent from MSP requesting conflicts for the next schedule, which will run 9/10/2023 through 12/17/2023. This will allow you to identify any conflicts on any given Sunday. Please make sure you respond to let us know your conflicts before we run the schedule.

Again, we thank you all for your hard work and dedication to St. Matthew's.

Al Van Lith, Church Administrator



(Top) Anne-Marie Nickel and Patrick Gardner prepare the communion trays before a worship service.

(Below) Richie Nickel and Dave Locher direct the technology of the live stream and the worship slides on a Sunday morning.



**Ministry
Scheduler
Pro**

Music Ministry

Join in the Music Making

St. Matthew's has outstanding opportunities for our Children, Youth, and Adults to be part of the music ministry and share their gifts with our church family and community. All are welcome to join in praising our Lord.

Come Join us to Sing

Praise Kids!

starts Thursday, September 28 at 4:00 to 4:50 pm

This group helps to teach our youngest about God, the Church and family through musical games, activities, learning time and singing.



New Creation Choir

starts Wednesday, September 27 at 5:45 to 6:30 pm

For grades 3-6 the New Creation Choir sings God's praises.



New Generation Choir

starts Wednesday, October 4 at 6:30 to 7:00 pm.

For 7th through 12th grades the New Generation Choir is a great opportunity for our youth to share their voices.

Senior Choir

starts Thursday, August 31 at NEW TIME from 7:15 to 8:45. It is never too late to join the singing; all vocal parts are welcome!



Come Join us to Ring

Godsbells

starts Wednesday, September 27 at 6:30 to 7:00

For 3rd through 6th grade this ensemble offers a great way to meet new friends, serve your church, and have fun learning about music and how to ring chimes and handbells.



Righteous Ringers

starts Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00

to 7:50. This is the experienced handbell choir is for the older youth, 7th through 12th grades.

The Embellishments

starts Tuesday, September 26 at 9:30 to 10:15. The Tuesday morning handbell choir is always looking for new ringers to join the handbell fun. No experience needed!

Bells Angels

starts Thursday, August 31 at NEW TIME from 6:00 to 7:15. If you have musical experience and are willing to learn the handbell world fast, speak to John.



We look forward to seeing many of you join in all the activity of serving our Lord and giving thanks through God's gift of music.

If you have any questions, please contact the music staff:

John Paradowski, JRPmuzik@yahoo.net

Jeff Reeves, JReeveswk@yahoo.com

Alexa Doebele [Interim Choir Director], treblemakr@gmail.com

Children's Ministry



Baptism

Baptismal Anniversaries for August

During baptism, 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 in August at St. Matthew's for the last few years.

Hunter Rineck Meyer	August 21, 2022
Isla Ruth Whitnell	August 8, 2021
Varro Kier Tanem	August 9, 2020
Annabelle Ellen Leto	August 22, 2020
Lucy James Baseheart	August 12, 2018
Louis Wiemer	August 13, 2017

There is a baptism Class coming up next month, Sept. 24

These classes will be offered about four times per year and taught by one of the pastors. The purpose of the class will be to:

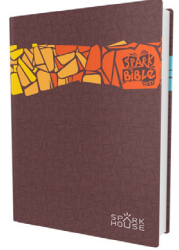
- learn about the theology behind this sacrament
- be prepared for the commitment made during the baptism itself
- know how to make baptism part of your family life at home
- ask questions about god parents, scheduling the date and other details
- meet other parents who are raising children in the church

If you want to have your child baptized or if you are expecting a child, mark your calendar!

September 24th 2023 • January 14th 2024 • April 7th 2024

2nd & 3rd Graders to Receive Bibles on September 17th

This year's 2nd graders will receive Bibles at the 8:30 worship service on September 17th. Following the service, 2nd graders and their parents will attend a class on using their new bibles. We hope that these new and eager young readers will make engagement with scripture a life-long habit!



Sunday School Starts September 10th

Sunday School for 3-Year-Olds through 8th grade begins on Sunday, September 10th during the education hour at 9:45. There will be a special celebration for Sunday School children at the 8:30 service on that day.

If your child attended Sunday School last year, or if you are a member or a prospective member, your child will automatically be registered for Sunday School. All children are welcome, so if you are not a member but would like your child to attend Sunday School, please call the office to register. Sunday School families will receive a letter with more details at the end of August. If you have any questions about Sunday School, please talk to Gretchen Hauge.

OFH Family Ride Run Walk - Join the participants from St. Matt's!

Saturday, September 30 @ Four Event Sites:

Milwaukee • Kenosha • Dousman • Grafton

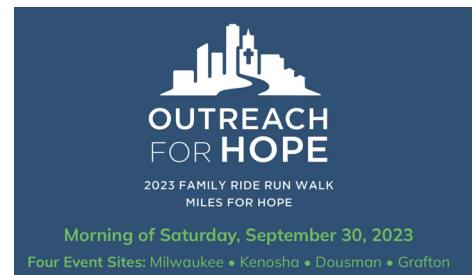
Join Team OFH for our 16th annual Family Ride Run Walk fundraiser: A morning of road and trail bike ride, walking and running routes, followed by a picnic lunch and fellowship. Together, we hope to raise \$160K for grants to our Ministry Partners serving neighborhoods experiencing material poverty in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA!

How to Register:

St. Matthew's Team Registration Page: <https://www.classy.org/team/513859>
We'll have a team walking in Washington Park, and also a team biking in Grafton.

How to Become a Volunteer:

- 1) **Register for the event:** Starting July 18, register at your chosen event site by visiting OFHRRW.org, or by calling us at 414-671-1212 to request a paper form.
- 2) **Sign up for your volunteer shift(s):** After you've registered, sign up for specific volunteer activities by completing our online form at <https://tinyurl.com/OFHRRW2023-volunteer>, or calling us at 414-671-1212.



Global Partnerships

Revitalizing our Tanzania and El Salvador Partnerships

Now is a great time to get involved

Though we haven't connected through travel for the past several years due to the COVID pandemic, we continue to be in regular contact with our global partners in Tanzania and El Salvador.

Each year, thanks to the St. Matthew's Foundation, we send undesignated donations to both partners to be used according to their needs. In El Salvador, the money goes to Casa Esperanza, a daytime homeless shelter in San Salvador that has been our ministry partner for many years. Casa Esperanza uses the funds to support daily operating expenses.

We are also partnered with the congregation of Pan de Vida (Bread of Life) in the community of Jayaque in El Salvador. Thanks to the donations of St. Matthew's members, we have been able to support some improvements to the church building, and we are beginning a scholarship program, thanks to individual donations, with the goal of making school accessible for 39 students from Kindergarten to University.

The foundation money that goes to Sing'isi Lutheran in Tanzania is used to support various projects that the church initiates to help those in need. This year's funds supported a classroom renovation, new homes for a homeless family and a widow, and a food distribution for 70 church members.

Sing'isi is also able to offer scholarships to university students each year thanks to the donations of St. Matthew's members.

We are considering the possibility of a visit to El Salvador in 2024 and to Tanzania the following year, depending on various factors. Watch the voice for developing partnership news! If you would like more information on the scholarship programs or other aspects of our global partnerships, contact Gretchen Hauge.



Top: El Ministerio Amor y Solidaridad en Casa Esperanza (The Love and Solidarity Ministry at Hope House) serves a nourishing lunch, offers showers and laundry facilities, and provides a place where all are treated with dignity in an area where many people are homeless.



Food is distributed by the pastor of Sing'isi Lutheran Church to people who are food insecure, many of whom are widows.



The Congregation of Pan de Vida celebrated its 37th anniversary in July.

Bulletin Board

Upcoming Healing Prayer Opportunities:

- Sunday, August 20 during the 9:30 am service
- Sunday, September 17 after the 8:30 worship service
- Sunday, October 22 during the 11:00 worship service
- Sunday, November 12 after the 11:00 worship service

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

YOU'RE INVITED!

Just One More Ministry "Celebrating God's Harvest" 10th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, August 19, 2023

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

at Just One More Ministry,

4180 N. Lydell Ave

Milwaukee WI

Come celebrate and enjoy food, face painting, music, bounce house, bean bag toss, and a fun time for the family. *This is the ministry that all started at St. Matthew's under the vision of Chris Capper.*



Pine Lake Women's Weekend Retreat, August 25-27, 2023. "We all are one in Mission" Led by Pastor Kelly Taylor-Schaus, including sunset sing and meditation, bible study and a candlelight Taizé service. There will also be a fair trade boutique. The location is Pine Lake, part of Crossways camps. Cost is \$170 for semiprivate accommodations. Pick up a form at the Welcome Center or in the church office. Registration is due by August 15th. You can learn more about this retreat from Marilyn Day, who has participated in this event for several years.

October 2 Blood Drive at St. Matthew's. Please mark your calendars and watch for sign-ups on September. The need for blood continues, as patients depend on it!

Pilgrimage to Greece, Turkey and Rome planned for Spring 2024 (Led by Dan Bice)

Follow in the footsteps of St. Paul during a 10- to 11-day journey to the Mediterranean with fellow Lutherans in April 2024. Among the cities to be visited will be Athens, Corinth, Ephesus and Heraklion, and there will be a three-day cruise to Mykonos, Santorini and Patmos. One of our adult educators, Dan Bice, will lead the trip, which will be organized by AMI Travel as well as local guides.



The trip has room for 25 individuals. If you or someone you know might be interested in going, please contact Dan at daniel.m.bice@gmail.com or at (414) 313-6684. There will be a meeting in September to discuss the itinerary and projected costs and answer any other questions.

Our Church Family

Joe and Layla Wirtz have welcomed Natalie Josephine to their family on July 6. Proud grandparents are Jerry and Sherri Wirtz.

Happy Birthday to Roylee Pflughoeft, who turns 100 years old on August 5, 2023. Roylee has resided at Harwood Place for many years, and she has been an avid quilter for much of her life. Each year, she donates beautiful quilts to the quilt ministry for distribution for others' enjoyment. We wish Roylee a happy, happy 100th birthday, and the next time you see her in worship, you can congratulate her on this wonderful milestone! Roylee is St. Matthew's oldest member.



Meghan Murphy, pictured here on the right with her mother, Julia Murphy, graduated from Harvard's Divinity School on May 24th. At Harvard, she enjoyed learning about religion in a multifaith environment. She played violin regularly at various religious events and, this past year, she was an intern at an Episcopalian monastery. In the fall, Meghan plans to move to New York City to complete a Clinical Pastoral Education residency in chaplaincy at the Veterans Administration. This

is the next step in the process to becoming a board certified chaplain.



John Paradowski and Jeff Reeves gave presentations on welcome, LGBTQ+ history, and shared stories about their own lives on two summer evenings. The sessions each drew more than 65 people.

Youth Mission Trip

Mission Trip Overview

The group of 24 kids and 7 adults on this summer’s Mission Trip had a full week of new experiences in Eastern Kentucky. They worked eight-hour days, beginning at 7:00 in the morning, doing manual labor. They learned new skills like building decks, pouring cement, roofing, laying flooring, and painting. But most importantly, they saw firsthand how last summer’s devastating flooding in Kentucky affected peoples’ lives.

People like Ronald and Rosemary and their baby son. Rosemary, who was pregnant at the time, was home alone on the night of the flood, when she woke up at 2:00 AM to the sound of rushing water. By the time she was able to get out of the home, the water was above her waist. Her only choice was to climb her way up the hill to reach higher ground. This is how she and others in her community survived.

There was Sandy, who experienced flooding in 2021, only to be hit again by last summer’s 1000-year flood – a flood that washed away many homes near hers, leaving only the cinderblock foundations. This area also experienced the most deaths caused by the flooding.

And there were Eli and Freda and their two children, who live on the high bank of a normally peaceful stream that swelled into rivers the night of the flood. Though their home still stood, there was much damage, including a roof that needed to be fully replaced. Still, the family considered themselves lucky. Some of their neighbors were swept away.

These are just a few stories of the those that the thousands of other flood survivors could share. We were grateful to serve with the Housing Development Alliance, which continues the essential work of responding to the housing needs of those who weathered last year’s storm.

Gretchen Haugse, Trip Leader



Holding the tools of their trade for the week are Tyler Goeckermann, Claire Foley, Stephen Searing, Julia Fossum, Jeremiah Finley, and Kateri Kirchner. The tools were put to good use in building a deck and accessible entrance for Ronald and Rosemary and Baby Randall.



It took everyone’s help to put on a new roof at Eli and Freda’s home. The ground crew included (l to r) chaperones Tom Templeman and Kevin Slager, Calli Dahlgren and Victoria Vorpapel, and chaperone Thaurra Stallings. On the roof were (l to r) Owen Schaar, Jake Dahlgren, Ethan Antczak, Lila Thomas, Merrigan Cook, Clare Kasdorf, Sophia Searing, Jinru Granger, and Michaela Wolter.

to eastern Kentucky, June 18-24



Making sure they have everything they need, this group is ready for their early start to the workday.

This hardworking crew installed floors and trim and painted walls to make a new home move-in ready for flood survivor Sandy. Left to right are Eli Schaar, Sam Slager, Annie Hyland, Kate Iding, Kate Charlson, Kylie McIntosh, and Chaperone Patti Foley.



One would never know from the bright faces that this photo at departure was taken at 6:30am



St. Matthew's

Ev. Lutheran Church † ELCA

Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

www.stmattslutheran.org

PERIODICALS RATE

Mail Carrier: Please deliver by August 5, 2023.

The Voice of St. Matthew's

We are called to welcome, nurture, equip and send

Next issue of the VOICE is dated September 3, 2023.

Congratulations Pastor Stephanie Newman!



Pastor Stephanie Newman (left) standing with Pastor Ann, holds pastoral stoles gifted by her by retired pastor Myron Olson of St. Matthew's.

Stephanie Newman, a friend of St. Matthew's, has been called to Christ Lutheran Church in Waterford, Michigan, after graduating from Luther Seminary this spring. Stephanie, her spouse Kim, and their children have been worshipping with us over the past couple of years when in Milwaukee for their daughter to receive health care treatment. Stephanie has participated in worship during Lenten services and also singing with the Senior Choir. Her friendly nature and positive outlook made her known to many in a short time.



The photo at the left shows Pastor Stephanie with Pastor Ann, holding pastoral stoles that were gifted to her by **Myron Olson**, a retired pastor. Myron and his wife Annette recently moved and were looking for a new home for these special items. Stoles are changed according to the liturgical season, and often have intricate designs and stitching making each one unique, and also making their cost prohibitive for new pastors just beginning in ministry. Pastor Ann helped to facilitate the transfer, and was able to share in Stephanie's enthusiasm for receiving the gift.



Retired Pastor Myron and Annette Olson

Pastor Stephanie's call to Christ Lutheran in Waterford, Michigan, is an answer to prayer for a first call pastor, as it is near enough to their home in Rochester that the family doesn't need to move. Congratulations, Pastor Stephanie Newman, and may God bless your ministry among the people of Christ Lutheran Church.