

THE VOICE of St. Matthew's

Volume 93, No. 3 - March 3, 2024

Introducing Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar New Lead Pastor of St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church



Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar holds his daughter Zoë in this photo captured by his wife, Pastor Alissa Kretzmann Farrar on January 27 after the Meet & Greet afternoon at St. Matthew's. Pastor Kevin began his call at St. Matthew's on February 28. See page 2 for Pr. Kevin's first Pastor's Voice column and page 10 for Pr. Kevin's background.

Our Pastor's Voice **Journeying Toward Easter's Hope**

Friends, we're on a journey together. We're journeying through Lent towards Easter and new life. We're also on a journey through life together. I cannot be more excited to be on this journey with you as your pastor.

During a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate Holy Week and Easter in Jerusalem. All of these services were incredible and unique experiences—but the Good Friday service left a particular mark on me. As a group of Lutherans speaking English, German, and Arabic, we walked the Via Dolorosa and, with it, the Stations of the Cross. We read the Bible passage corresponding with each station, prayed in our native tongue, and then sung as we processed to the next station. On one of these journeys between two stations, we sang "Were You There (When They Crucified My Lord)." As I sang the words of this slave spiritual, I couldn't help but think about how I had gone halfway around the world to be in the place that I understood to be where Jesus had walked, only to be brought back to my homeland and hear the witness of enslaved African Americans.



This Good Friday service gave me eyes to see how my experience of Jesus' death and resurrection was not somehow more real because I had traveled halfway around the world to Jerusalem. The first singers of this hauntingly beautiful spiritual every bit as vividly grasped the reality of Christ's death as any Christian in history. After all, the mystery at the heart of our faith, Christ's death and resurrection, are not mere historical events that happened thousands of years ago on the other side of our planet. The mystery of Christ's death and resurrection is not confined to a specific time or place but is an ongoing reality that shapes and reshapes our lives.

Similarly, our journey together as a community is not just about remembering the past, but also about discovering God's work of bringing new life in our midst. We go on this journey each Lent towards new life; we also go on this journey to new life each day on our faith journey. As we navigate the challenges and joys of our faith journey, I am eager to explore with you where God is leading us towards new life.

I invite each of you to reflect on your own journeys during this holy season. How is God preparing you to experience new life? How is God shaping us so that we, as a community, can embody the hope and transformation of Easter in our lives and in the world?

I am honored and humbled to be on this journey with you, and I look forward to discovering together the new life that God is bringing into our lives, our community, and our world.

Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar

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

Newsletter of St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

Kevin Kretzmann Farrar, Lead Pastor

Ann Williams, Associate Pastor

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Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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Visit our website: www.StMattsLutheran.org

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

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Join us for Wednesdays during Lent, March 6 - 13 - 20

Each Wednesday Morning:

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

Evening:

5:15-6:15 pm Dinner in Fellowship Hall - Mission Trip Youth

6:15-7:00 pm Family Lenten Time for parents and children with Donna Gardner Manke

6:00-7:00 pm Bible Study for adults with Dave & Robbie Locher

5:45-6:30 pm New Creation Choir

6:30-7:00 pm New Generation Choir

7:15-7:45 pm Taizé Lenten Service



Adult Bible Study 6:00-7:00 pm

Join us each week for a session of "God Talk" and good 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!

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

Have Dinner with Us in Lent! 5:15-6:15 pm

Three great reasons to join us:

- Enjoy a healthy, delicious meal without cooking or cleaning up
- Spend time in fellowship with St. Matthew's family
- Support the Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans.

Mar. 6th: Breakfast for dinner – Breakfast burritos, fruit, sausage, French toast sticks, fruit

Mar. 13th: Baked Potato Bar, salad, fruit

Mar. 20th: Chili, corn bread, fruit, veggies & dip

Parents and Younger Children,

Join Us 6:15 - 7:00 pm

Following the Wednesday dinners, join us for the midweek family time. There are stories, songs, projects, prayer and brief worship, led by Donna Gardner Manke. Participants will learn about Bible stories addressing our Lenten theme. We encourage families to come for the dinner (5:15-6:20), then stay for the family time.

What are Taizé services 7:15-7:45 pm

The Taizé community is a French religious order world renowned for its message of trust, peace, and reconciliation. Taizé songs, with their distinctive style, have become popular as a source of meditation and praise worldwide. Singing is one of the most important forms of prayer. In the Taizé style a few words sung over and over again reinforce the meditative quality of prayer.



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. 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.



Lent & Holy Week Offerings benefit El Salvador & Tanzania Youth Scholarships

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.



Upcoming Events

St. Matthew's to host a "Bach's Birthday Bash" concert on Wednesday, March 20th starting at 11:30 Lunch with a 12:00 concert

Dr. Curt Sather will present a program of great music by Johann Sebastian Bach

Curt Sather was born and raised in Sussex, WI. He began playing an accordion at 7 and his introduction to Bach came by the "Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor" for the accordion. Since age 11 he has served as a church musician, leading programs in Wisconsin, Arizona, California, Washington, New York, and Italy.

He completed his bachelor's degree at Arizona State University in organ performance, then master's and doctorates in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.

After serving as Organist & Choirmaster at the Episcopal Parish of St. Barnabas on the Desert in Scottsdale, AZ, for 13 years, he joined the ancient Benedictine monastery of San Minato al Monte, Florence, Italy, serving as organist in the 1,000-year-old basilica, as well as in the Duomo (cathedral) of Florence. He has performed throughout the USA, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.



Dr. Curt Sather

After a 39-year absence, Dr. Sather returned to Milwaukee last year, and is currently Organist & Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Church, Wauwatosa.

BACH'S SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

Studying and performing the music of J. S. Bach since childhood, Curt has performed the complete organ works of Bach: twice on a 14-week series of recitals, and twice on a 24-hour marathon to celebrate the composer's birthday.

Curt, who calls Bach the greatest composer for the organ, said, "There is something so, so religious, so spiritual about it that has always connected with me more than any other composer." Bach was "divinely inspired," he said. "This stuff didn't just come out of his own hard work. He was certainly the culmination of centuries of music. He was able to gather styles from across Europe and then combine the greatest music that has been written up to that point in time. It is just perfection. There is not a bad note anywhere."

"This music should be played — it should be sent out to the universe."

Rumor has it the St. Matthew's Organist, whom you may know, will be joining in the recital performing movements of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos transcribed for Organ and Piano.

Invite your friends as this concert is free to the public and all are welcome to enjoy the great music of Johann Sebastian Bach.

March 17, 2024 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Children and Youth Choir share: "Jesus Stories"

Jesus used stories to teach people how to live and love others. His stories were about everyday events and experiences that people could relate to. Jesus also used stories to tell people about God's love for everyone.



Our Children and Youth choirs will share songs and stories about Jesus' care and love that he gave to us.

Share Your Jesus Story

How Jesus loves all, how we can love our neighbor, do we care for those in need, do we search for the lost treasure, and how we are God's Hands in this world.

Donna Manke will be sharing a children's message with all on that day as well.

What is your Jesus story? Every time we share our story, we reveal how Jesus truly knows, cares, and loves each one of us.

Come and be part of the power of community sharing faith together.

Women's Ministry

Sunday Morning Women's Group

Our next meeting is on Sunday March 3rd 9:45-10:45am. The theme will be "retreat." We will be talking about what retreats mean and different ways to experience them in our busy lives. Led by Katie Nickel. All are welcome!



New Member Classes coming in April

Join St. Matthew's Faith Community!

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. If you have had an opportunity to worship with us and would like to learn more about St. Matthew's please consider attending our membership classes on April 7th and April 21st during our education hour from 9:45-10:45 am. Please contact the church office for more information.

Looking Ahead to Holy Week & Easter March 24-31



Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24 - 8:30 and 11:00am services

Recall the joyous procession into Jerusalem of Jesus on a donkey surrounded by shouts of "Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Maundy Thursday, March 28 - 10:00am & 7:00pm

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--March 31 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!

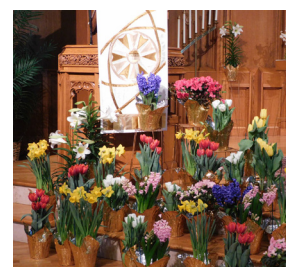
There is still time to purchase Easter flowers for the display at church on Easter
Note: Early deadline this year

Deadline is Sunday, March 17, 2024

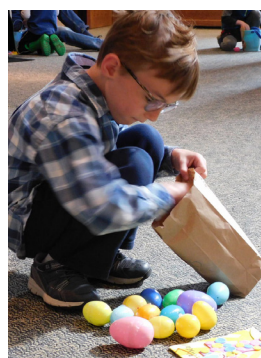
Pick up a flower order form at church, or order online on our website. Please pay for your flowers at the time you order them. We also offer a lenten benevolence option in \$10 increments, which will be directed toward partnership children's educational scholarships, both in El Salvador and Tanzania.

Questions? Speak to Sonja, Al or Bridget in the church office. Flower and benevolence designations will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

- Hyacinths (assorted) @ \$15**
- Daffodils @ \$15**
- Lilies (white) @ \$16**
- Tulips (assorted) @ \$15**
- Azaleas (assorted) @ \$28**
- Hydrangeas (assorted) @ \$30**



Good Friday Easter Egg Hunt & Worship Friday, March 29, at 10:00 am



Join us Good Friday at St. Matthew's for our annual Good Friday Easter Egg hunt. We will meet at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. A craft will be available as we await the start of the egg hunt. We will then gather in the Sanctuary for worship. We are asking for donations of (wrapped) candy filled Easter Eggs. Looking forward to seeing you all!! Donna Gardner Manke

Easter Eggs Needed!

We are asking for donations of wrapped candy-filled Easter eggs for the Good Friday easter egg hunt. Please bring them by Wednesday, March 27, 2024.



Adult Faith Formation

Sunday Mornings in March

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.

March 3rd & March 17th

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. St. Matthew's will hold two adult forums with religious leaders from our community to provide perspective and background on the conflict:

March 3: A Muslim perspective on the Israel-Hamas war with Janan Najeeb. Led by Conor Williams.

March 17: A Jewish perspective on the Israel-Hamas war with Moshe Katz. Led by Dan Bice

March 24


Muhlenbergs Create the only American Lutheran Dynasty


Surnames like Kennedy, Rockefeller and Roosevelt represent familiar dynasties in American history, but five generations of Lutheran Muhlenbergs top them all. Pastors, scientists, politicians, and academics, they dominated cultural life in the Eastern U.S. for two centuries. Why don't Lutherans know more about this clan? Pastor David Zersen shares this fascinating story.



SAINTS

St. Matthew's Older Adults Ministry

March Gathering: Bach's Birthday Bash 
See page 4

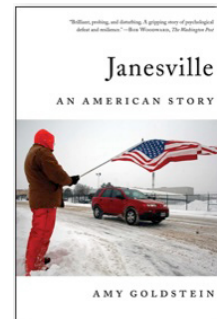
April Gathering: Milwaukee's Love Affair with Baseball - The Story of a City and a Sport with Dr. Stephen Hauser 

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.

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.

- 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 pp.



April book:
Janesville: An American Story

Children's Ministries



Children's Clothing Swap returns!

The Children's Clothing Swap is returning to St. Matthew's! 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

How do you participate?



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 1st – 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.

Is it a piece for piece swap?

No. Just bring what you can and take what you need. If you would like to participate, but have no clothes to swap, you can participate and leave a donation that will be given to a local charity. You can also donate clothing but not attend the swap.



What happens to any clothing that is left?

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

We'll meet on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in the Commons to sort and display the clothes for the swap. Volunteers from the Sunday a.m. Women's Group have offered to help sort and assist on Sunday. Join us as we welcome back this popular clothing swap!



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.

Kids for Christ (1st-3rd grades)

Sunday, March 3, 12:00-2pm

Disciples of Christ (4th & 5th grades)

Sunday, March 10, 12:00-2:00 pm

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.

Vacation Bible School dates have been set for 2024

These dates are the mornings of July 29 - August 2, and it is for 4-year-olds through 5th graders (entering these grades Fall 2024). Mark your calendars for fun! Helpers needed! Adults, older youth, and former participants, please hold this week open. You are what make our VBS week possible. Sign-ups begin this summer.

Do We Have Sunday School Today?

Here's how to answer that question if it comes up in your household:

Sunday, March 31st - No Sunday School, Easter

Sunday, April 7th - Sunday School resumes

The last day of Sunday School this year is May 19th.

Baptism Anniversaries

"We Promise to Pray for You..."

Several times each month, babies, children and adults are baptized during our worship services. During the service of baptism, after the person is baptized, the congregation welcomes him or her and promises to pray for him or her during his/her faith development. We reprint these baptism names and dates from the previous few years as a reminder of those baptized. Your prayers are welcomed!



Liam Brooks Bankert

March 13, 2022

Eloise Clara Yentz

March 31, 2019

Amelia Elaine Anderson

March 11, 2018

Charlotte Rose Williams

March 18, 2018

Zachary Richard Cavazos

March 12, 2017

Youa Reinicker

March 26, 2016

Youth Dinner Auction -- "Night in NOLA"

Night in NOLA Dinner Auction a Huge Success Thanks to You!

Thanks to everyone who supported the Dinner Auction in February, we brought in over \$6,000 to help with Mission Trip costs! A heartfelt thank you to those who attended with good humor and a sense of fun, those who generously bid on or donated auction items, and those who supported us with prayer and good wishes. This annual fundraising event is essential to our mission trips, and we are so grateful for the support of the congregation! Here are some photo highlights of the evening.



Clare and Sara Kasdorf



These youth and their families hosted the dinner, from decorating and providing the food to serving to cleaning up afterward. They'll be traveling to New Orleans in June for service.



The crowd enjoyed jambalaya, macaroni and cheese, salad, bread and a delicious selection of desserts.



Serving appetizers were Heather Manternach, Kate Charlson, Grace Williams and Michael Moffett.



Congregational Meetings - January 28, 2024

St. Matthew's Jan. 28 Meetings Approve Call of New Lead Pastor, as well as 2024 Budget and New Council Members So What Happened at These Meetings?

A buzz of excitement and anticipation was felt by many on Sunday as about 175 people gathered for the Special Congregational Meeting, followed by the regular Annual Meeting for St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

At the special meeting, Call Committee members Brian Due (chairperson), Kristen Charlson and Robert Mochel spoke to share the Committee's perspective on why The Rev. Kevin Kretzmann Farrar is such a good fit for St. Matthew's.

Our congregation had an opportunity to meet Pastor Kevin, along with his family, the Rev. Alissa Kretzmann Farrar and their daughter Zoë, on Saturday afternoon at a Meet and Greet session in Fellowship Hall sponsored by the church council and Call Committee. Approximately 150 people attended this event.

After a few questions about the process, a vote was taken and the candidate was approved by a vote of 163-4. Pastor Kristin Nielsen of our Synod Office, who has accompanied and guided the call committee through their entire journey, gave opening and closing prayers, as well as sharing an inspired gospel message during the 8:30 worship service.

...A vote was taken and the candidate was approved by a vote of 163-4.

The special meeting was adjourned and shortly after that the regular Annual Congregational Meeting was begun, called to order by Congregational President Diane DuBois. After Pastor Ann Williams led an opening prayer, current council members were recognized: Carly Crave, Pam Stokke-Ceci, Carl Johnson, Michael Wolaver, Fred Heim, Laura Hyland and Diane DuBois. Those who will be leaving council as their terms are expiring are Diane DuBois, Pam Stokke-Ceci, and Carly Crave. These people were thanked for serving in these leadership roles for St. Matthew's.

New council nominees were presented: Alice Rudebusch, Rob Sholl and Cathy Shaw. They were each voted in for three-year terms.

Rob Wedel, St. Matthew's long-term treasurer, gave an update on our financial position, which is strong. We ended 2023 in a good position, with spending under budget. Our 2024 budget uses \$109,000 of our reserves, and we continue to be debt-free. Rob announced that there will be a special fund drive in the spring for some property needs, both updates and maintenance that has been deferred. Our building fund continues to fund maintenance as needed. The budget was approved unanimously.

We ended 2023 in a good position, with spending under budget.

Our call committee has worked tirelessly, patiently, and faithfully to wait for the right candidate for call, and after two years of work, their efforts have been rewarded with a candidate that a large majority of the congregation is excited about.

Pastor Ann Williams gave a pastor's report, mostly sharing the news that she is working toward a sabbatical during the summer of 2025, as she has been serving here for seven years. She is applying for a grant to receive funding for this. Her focus for her sabbatical will be learning about her genealogical history, and the stories of people along the way. She looks forward to hearing more of our stories, and hopes to offer opportunities for sharing stories this year.

The meeting ended on a hopeful note, with the reiteration of the special meeting vote for our new lead pastor. 2024 will certainly be an interesting and exciting year for ministry for St. Matthew's.

After the departure of Lead Pastor Chris Manke in 2020, St. Matthew's has been on a journey toward finding a new lead pastor that has had many twists and turns. This included the challenge of pandemic isolation and ceasing many church gatherings, finding our way back to safe gatherings, and also discerning the Holy Spirit's direction for church leadership and future initiatives with the leadership of a reconfigured church council and guidance of interim lead pastor Karen Natterstad. In Kairos time, we have been blessed with this call of a new lead pastor and the promise of future ministry together.

Our call committee has worked tirelessly, patiently, and faithfully to wait for the right candidate for call, and after two years of work, their efforts have been rewarded with a candidate that a large majority of the congregation is excited about. Special thanks to them for their work: Chairperson Brian Due, Diane DuBois, Nancy Bowen, Dave Celata, Robert Mochel and Kristen Charlson, as well as former members Andy Cherney, Natalie Ford-Sajdak and Michael Wolaver.



Caring Ministries

Stephen Ministry

Please join us in prayer and thanksgiving as we begin training a new group of Stephen Ministers! Are you going through a difficult time? Perhaps someone you care about is struggling. Stephen Ministry is here for you and is for everyone, young and old, who may be dealing with a challenging life situation. Having someone to listen and support you when you're in the midst of parenting young children, coping with stress, making a job change, trying to make a decision, working through a family conflict are just a few examples of the many ways we can confidentially walk in faith with you. Please contact Pastor Ann or Sue Swing for more info.



Caregiver Group

The next gathering of the Caregivers Group will be Tuesday, March 5th at 6:30 P.M. Join us for a little learning, listening, laughter and lots of support! All are welcome!

Grief Group

Meets on Mondays from 1:00-2:30. Led by certified grief educator, Candy Romano.

Embrace a winter hobby to help comfort others!

The Prayer Shawl ministry quietly goes about sharing prayer shawls with members of the congregation – here are some helpful hints!

What is a prayer shawl: A prayer shawl is a knitted or crocheted shawl blessed over and is offered to provide comfort to another individual in need.

How can I donate a shawl: Simply place your completed shawl (knitted, crocheted or purchased as such) on the rack outside of the church library – a tag will be placed upon after it is blessed.

Can I just take a shawl for another: YES! We encourage this as you share some comfort with a friend or loved one who is in need.

Why does this ministry exist: St. Matthew's has given away hundreds of shawls to unknown friends and family over the years. We have learned that, like the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37, providing comfort for others allows us to care for people regardless of their needs and background.

Are more shawls needed at this time: YES!! The inventory is low and we need YOUR help in replenishing this important gift to share with others.

Questions: Please contact Bev Etzelmueller at 262-250-3969 or bevetz@sbcglobal.net



Want to know more about our new lead pastor, The Rev. Kevin Kretzmann Farrar?

Pr. Kevin was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, and attended St. Olaf College and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics. While at St. Olaf, he studied abroad in Hungary, South Africa, and Namibia.

He began his seminary education at Yale Divinity School where he earned a Master of Divinity degree. He then attended Luther Seminary in the Twin Cities where he completed his Lutheran pastoral formation, including a Master of Arts in the Studies of Lutheran Ministry.

He has served congregations in California, New York, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, including serving as a pastor at Atonement Lutheran Church in Muskego since 2018. Areas of focus have included faith formation, youth ministry, organizational structure and administration, clarity around mission and values, empowerment of lay people, inspiring worship services, and guiding the church in the process towards becoming Reconciling in Christ.

He lives in the Charles Jacobus Park neighborhood of Wauwatosa with his wife, Alissa Kretzmann Farrar, who is also a Lutheran pastor. She serves at Lake Park Lutheran Church on the East Side of Milwaukee. Their daughter, Zoë, is one year old. They are expecting a second child in May.

Our Church Family

Evelyn Lentz died on January 29 at the age of 99 years. Evelyn was a member of St. Matthew's for 75 years, joining when she married Howard Lentz, whose family were founding members of the church. She and Howard raised their children at St. Matthew's, Bill, Chuck, Alice and Donna. Evelyn is also survived by grandchildren and great grandchildren. Evelyn's faith was readily shared through her encouraging cards and notes, often ending with the words "May the Lord bless and keep you always in his care." She was kind and positive, and always saw the best in everyone. She was beloved by her family and friends. We thank God for her life, and trust that she is at peace, reunited with Howard and other family members.



Bulletin Board

Wednesday Morning Bible Study will take a two-week break at the end of March. No Bible Study on March 27 or on April 3.

Attention Parents! (and parents-to-be)

Next Baptism class is April 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, mark your calendar!

Upcoming Healing Prayer Opportunities:

Maundy Thursday, March 28,
after the morning and evening 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.



It was a joy to welcome Pastor Marilyn Miller as our guest preacher on February 18, sharing a message on God's Surprises during challenging times in our world.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10. Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday evening so that you may arrive for church on time on Sunday morning.



In home IT help available:

Need some help with a home wifi network, printer issues, smart TVs, your cell phone, a sound system, computer, or other things that are supposed to work in your home? Call or text Kyle Mohr, 414-534-2633, to set up an appointment in your home. He will give you an estimate, and charges an hourly rate for work done. Kyle is the son of Dave & Sonja Mohr of our congregation. References of satisfied customers available.

St. Matthew's live streams worship services

Did you miss a church service that you didn't want to miss? Are you out of town for the weekend? Can't come to church because it's physically too difficult? Check out St. Matthew's Live Stream of Worship Services on Sunday mornings. Go to our website, and click on the "Live Feed" link (www.stmattslutheran.org). You can also watch most adult education classes.



Zoey McCullough (center) celebrated her First Communion on Feb. 18 with her family, Preston, Dave, Kait and Danica.



St. Matthew's

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

PERIODICALS RATE

Mail Carrier: Please deliver by March 2, 2024.

The Voice of St. Matthew's

We are called to welcome, nurture, equip and send

Next issue of the VOICE is dated April 7, 2024.



Worshippers on Ash Wednesday gather at the altar for ashes at the beginning of the service. Since the service was on Valentine's Day, several people wore red.



Alexa Doebele, Senior Choir Director, conducts a choir anthem on January 28.



Chris Davis (left) and Marilyn Day (right) work on a quilt at the Quilt Blitz on January 27. Fifteen enthusiast women gathered to pack 4 boxes of blankets & children clothing for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The boxes were taken to UPS store on State Street. Thrivent Action team paid \$250 toward postage, and the UPS store waived the rest, because it was a good cause. The group spent the rest of the morning completing 18 quilts.



Sunday School teacher Carrie Jo Cherney worked with third graders to create God's Eyes with popsicle sticks and yarn.



A majority of middle school-aged boys gathered on January 28 for lunch and Capture the Flag. Andy Cherney volunteered as an adult chaperone.