

THE VOICE of St. Matthew's

Volume 92, No. 10 - October 1, 2023

The Prophet Moses

Learn about this important Old Testament hero in the Scripture reading for October 1st
Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am



Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

Exodus 3:2b-4

Pastor's Voice

"Faithful Stewards of God's Grace"

This summer, my family and I (including my mom!) took a trip to the Netherlands and Belgium. It was fabulous. We walked by the canals, ate chocolate and Belgian waffles and saw artwork by Vermeer, Rembrandt and Van Gogh. We even spent a day riding around the countryside on bicycles like the locals. And it was on that cycling trip that my mom lost her balance and fell from her bike into a barbed wire fence. For a few agonizing moments I wasn't sure if she was ok. We helped her up, finished the ride and did a google search for a doctor's office. Jay called and somehow communicated to the receptionist what happened and a doctor got on the phone and told us to come right over. We walked in and the doctor led us to an exam room. She spoke to my sweet mom kindly, took some vitals and gave her a tetanus shot. She prescribed her ibuprofen and a long hot bath and then said that there was no charge for the visit. She gave everyone a hug and told me that my mom was going to be fine. I was so relieved that I started to cry. I hadn't felt a swell of gratitude like that for some time and I was at a loss for words (especially Flemish, Dutch or German words) that would adequately express my thanks. The whole visit took about 15 minutes.

Last night at our monthly Council meeting, a devotion was shared which included this verse from 1 Peter, "each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

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

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

USPS 662-800 -- Published Monthly - by St.

Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213 (phone 774-0441) Periodicals postage paid at Milwaukee, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Voice of St. Matthew's, St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church, 1615 N. Wauwatosa Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213.



While I was listening, I immediately remembered that lovely Belgian doctor and was struck by the thought that in giving, we aren't just "helping others" but we are being "stewards of God's grace." The gentleness, expertise and reassurance we received that day certainly felt like grace to me then and it still feels like grace to me now.

Here at Saint Matthew's, we are beginning our fall stewardship campaign. This appeal comes around every year because, just like at your house, we have to pay for insurance, utilities and make repairs. As a community, we've made commitments to partners, the synod and the national church. Sunday school kids need art supplies and Confirmation kids need candy and we need to send high schoolers on mission trips. Paying the bills isn't glamorous and talking about money can sometimes be awkward—but I'm taking a different view this year. 1 Peter tells us that we are to be "faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." A steward is charged with managing that

which belongs to God. And if we are stewards of God's grace—we are charged with administering the unconditional and unearned love of God. God bestows gifts to us in order that we might give them away. In

other words, what you have been given hasn't been given to you. It is for the world and the least of these and the stranger and the community.

Giving to the church isn't about money—not really. It's not even about paying the bills. We can have one another, the sacraments and the Word of God without a beautiful building, staff or programs. Christian giving is a swell of gratitude that cannot be contained and a deep recognition of the fact that everything belongs to God and returns to God. Let us be good stewards of God's grace and use whatever we have been given to serve others.

Pastor Ann

Christian giving is a swell of gratitude that cannot be contained...

Coming Up in October

Caregiver Discussion Group Tuesday Evenings - Oct. 3, 17, 31; Nov. 14 7:00-8:15 P.M.



If you're involved in caregiving, the chances are high that your life will be changed by the experience. Maybe you're finding yourself emotional or stressed out. Or, the caregiving may be overwhelming your relationship with your loved one. If you are looking for a place to share and be supported please come to

this newly created Caregiver Discussion Group. Our discussion will be focused on material from the book, *When Caregiving Calls* by Aaron Blight. The chapters are very short with topics such as Relationship, Family, Time, Stress, Emotions and Faith. The purpose of this group is to listen and affirm one another in the joys and challenges of our unique caregiving journeys. To learn more please contact Sue Swing; sueswing@sbcglobal.net

New Member Classes begin October 22nd!

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 in October and November. A mailing will be sent in early October to all known interested households.

Classes will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45.

October 22nd, October 29th and
November 5th

New Members will be received on Sunday, November 12th at the 8:30 service.

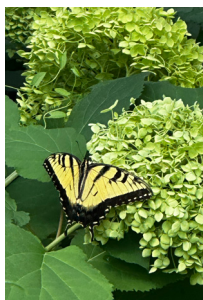
If you have any questions, please contact sueswing@sbcglobal.net, the pastors or the church office.

Garden Clean-Up planned for October 14

Thanks to our Garden Crew for their work all season!

Beginning at 9:00am on Saturday Oct. 14, you're invited to help out with the final Gardening activity of this year. Thanks to our Garden Crew! If you see these people, be sure to express your thanks to them.

Jeanne Collins, Chris Weber Sponnick, Jim Sponnick, Cheryl Wendt, Shannon Kobinsky, Karrie Hendrickson, Sally Schumacher, Carl Johnson, Patti Granger, Trudy Zauner, Bob Zwaska



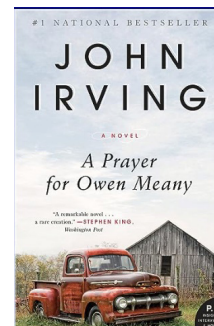
Our Call Committee continues its work with orientation of new members, meeting with Bishop Paul Erickson, and interviewing new candidates. They've had several meetings in the past few weeks! Our Call Committee consists of: (back row, l-r) Brian Due (chair), Nancy Bowen, Andy Cherney. (front row, l-r) Kristen Charlson, Diane DuBois (council president), and Robert Mochel.

First Fridays Book Group Discussion

We're back, beginning Friday, October 6

The weather is getting colder, and it's becoming the best time of year to sit down and read a good book! And we have a reading list full of them. We meet on the first Friday of each month for a discussion, beginning at 7:00 pm in the Upper Room at church. You can come just for the books you choose to read with us! Or come to all of them. You're sure to enjoy the discussion.

Here are the first few books of the year. You can find the whole list at church (look for the blue paper at the Welcome Center or across from the church office), or on our website: stmattslutheran.org > Ministry > Adult Ministry > Book Discussion



- October 6** *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving, 627 pages.
- November 3** *That Good Night: Life and Medicine in the Eleventh Hour*, by Sunita Puri, 301 pages
- December 1** *American Dirt: A Novel*, by Jeanine Cummins, 386 pages
- January 5** *The Housekeeper and the Professor*, by Yoko Ogawa, 180 pgs.

Adult Faith Formation

Sunday Mornings 9:45-10:45

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 am.

October 1

The Life of Moses as a Guide to Personal Transformation

As we follow Moses we find places of spiritual transformation; where the Spirit of God moved him from behaviors motivated by fear and self-protection to trust in God. Using this insight from the life of Moses we will reflect on his evolving relationship with God and how that can inform our own spiritual journeys. Led by Stephen Ministry Leaders Carl Johnson and Sue Swing



October 8

Guest Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Timothy Wengert; Perspective on Human Sexuality and the ELCA Social Statement of 2009

If you weren't already aware of this, the ELCA (the larger church body to which we belong) has many Social statements about real-world issues and topics. One of them is the 2009 Social Statement on Human Sexuality. It is many pages long! (You can find it on the ELCA.org website - do a search there) As you can imagine there was much effort, discussion, and faithful discernment that went into this document. We are excited to have as our guest a member of the committee that produced this Social Statement. Tim Wengert is also the brother of Chris Davis, a member of St. Matthew's. Tim Wengert is emeritus professor of church history at the United Lutheran Seminary (Philadelphia). He is also a prolific author, editor, and co-author. Please come to this session to hear this speaker with a unique perspective on how our larger church body is interpreting God's call for us to welcome all.



October 15

MICAH: Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope

Join us on Oct 15th to learn more about MICAH - Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope. MICAH is a multi-racial, interfaith organization committed to justice issues of greatest importance to Milwaukee residents. MICAH is 34 years old and is made up of 40 congregations, including St. Matthew's, committed to honoring Micah 6:8. *"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."* We will welcome Lisa Jones, Executive Director of MICAH. We will be lifting up MICAH's "We All Belong" campaign which seeks to challenge Christian nationalism in our country. And we will share developments of Wauwatosa MICAH Task Force made up of four Tosa churches working for the common good in our municipality.

October 22

Tosa Cares Food Pantry

Tosa Cares Food Pantry operates out of Mount Zion Lutheran Church and serves Tosa and surrounding communities serving over 300 families with food distributions every seven weeks. This number is almost double the number of families in 2019-2020. Our ongoing food collections at St. Matthew's support Tosa Cares and Cross Food Pantries, and with food expenses continuing to climb, our food donations are needed more than ever. St. Matthew's member Kristin Hanson is a Tosa Cares Board member who serves as Volunteer Coordinator for the pantry. Hear what she has to share about the ways Tosa Cares meets the needs of people, and find out how you can be part of this ministry.



October 29

Luther, We Hardly Knew You

(Special focus for REFORMATION SUNDAY!)

Reformation Sunday has always been a time to celebrate those emphases in Luther's theology that we cherish today: Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Scripture Alone. However, the great man's voluminous writings (69 volumes in the American Edition), can surprise us with his crude language, antisemitic remarks and condescending critiques of regional minority groups. Dr. David Zersen will share information based on his research that he has published in a number of journals. Come and learn whether you really know Brother Martin.



SAINTS

St. Matthew's Saints Older Adult Ministry

Join us each month this fall!

Haven't come before? All are welcome

Wednesday, October 18, 11:30 am

SURPRISE! It's a Surprise Program that you're sure to enjoy. (No, it doesn't mean that we don't have a plan... we do...

we're just choosing to keep it secret!) Plan for fun at this Saints Gathering. One thing that won't be a surprise is the delicious box lunch available, along with an opening devotion and warm fellowship. Plan to attend! Suggested donation for lunch is \$11.00. Menu available at sign-up.

Wednesday, November 15, 11:30 am

"Music That Makes Us Smile" with Greg Jenks

We all know that music has the power to affect our emotional experiences and during these divisive times that we find ourselves, what better way to forget about all of that than to listen to music that makes us feel good. This presentation will sample a number of different songs via video guaranteed to put a smile on your face. We'll discuss the bands and artists that recorded the uplifting tunes while also spending a little time



discussing the chemical processes in the brain that produce those positive responses.

Greg Jenks is a retired school psychologist, homebrewer, amateur actor and singer. The opportunity to research and present on historical topics, especially those concerning music, has become one of Greg's most enjoyable hobbies in retirement. He is a frequent presenter at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, the Hales Corners Historical Society and many other organizations.

Wednesday, December 13, 11:30 am

(one week earlier than usual)

Elm Grove Women's Club Choir

Directed by Patricia Engelhardt

The choir sings beautiful arrangements of traditional carols and some fun new carols.



Sign Up at the Welcome Center or in the church office. Box lunches are ordered from City Market; suggested donation is \$11 each.

I Love Our Church



Every time I think of you,
I give thanks to my God.
Philippians 1:3

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.



SMLC

Visit the SMLC Music Web site for all the detailed information and schedules for all our Musical Ensembles.

Music Ministry – St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Praise Kids! - New Season started September 28th at 4:00 to 4:50

Our youngest members can join in singing praises to our Lord. Praise Kids! offers all children who are age 4 [Jr. Kindergarten] through 2nd grade a chance to be part of the children's ministry of the church. This group helps to teach singers about God, the church and family through musical games,



activities, learning time and singing. Praise Kids! is held on Thursday afternoons, starting September 28th, from 4:00 to 4:50. Jeff Reeves and Amy Dankwardt lead our singers in age-appropriate music education activities and singing. The group will sing for worship, including the Christmas Pageant on December 12th and Christmas Eve December 24th. For more information, please contact Jeff Reeves or John Paradowski.

Senior Choir - Thursdays, 7:15 to 8:45



The Adult choir has started rehearsing this season, but it is never too late to join the singing, all vocal parts are welcome! Join Dr. Alexa Doebele, our interim Choir Director, singing praises. The adult choir sings just about every Sunday and is a great opportunity to share your talents with the congregation. For more information contact John Paradowski.

The Embellishments – Tuesday Mornings at 9:30 to 10:15

The Tuesday morning handbell choir, The EmbELLishments, is always looking for new ringers to join the handbell fun. No experience needed! We have fun as we learn new music and the techniques of handbell ringing. If you have any questions or would like a private lesson in ringing handbells to find out what it is all about, please talk with John Paradowski.

John R. Paradowski
Minister of Music

Children's and Youth Ministries

Attention, Families of First - Fifth Graders! Kids for Christ and Disciples of Christ

*It's time for us to gather
for Food, Games, Prayer, and Fun!*

Join Donna Gardner Manke in the youth room for pizza. We will then play Capture the Flag in the education wing. Please join us for this time of fellowship and fun. Call the church office to sign up 414-774-0441 (It is helpful to know numbers, so we have enough food) Friends are welcome! Cost is \$5.00



KFC

1st -3rd graders are invited to join us for Kids for Christ!
Sunday, Oct 8th 12-2pm
Sunday, Nov 5th 12-2pm

DOC

4th – 5th graders are invited to join us for Disciples of Christ!
Sunday, Oct 1st 12-2pm
Sunday, Nov 12th 12-2pm

Coming on October 8th: Sunday Morning High School Youth Group!

All high school students are welcome and encouraged to come to the Youth Room on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 starting **Sunday, October 8th** for games, conversation, service projects, and food. This is a great and fun way to stay connected to other kids at St. Matt's!



“We promise to support your parents...” *Baptismal Anniversaries*

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 few years at St. Matthew's. May their lives be blessed through your prayers.

Eliana Marie Lanza	October 9, 2022
August Hart Smith	October 16, 2021
Tate Leto	October 3, 2020
Marin Munro Ordonez	October 18, 2020
Everly Rae Thompson	October 13, 2019
Naomi Elizabeth Frets	October 20, 2019
Aria Jane Daul	October 27, 2019
Fischer Eli Zanskas	October 28, 2018
Emilia James Mochel	October 8, 2017

New Scripture Focus for 2023-24 Worship - Narrative Lectionary



Pastor Ann Williams led the first Adult Faith Formation Session on Rally Day, September 10. The topic was the new scripture focus for this year's worship services, called the Narrative Lectionary. The use of the Narrative Lectionary is an experiment whose purpose is to improve Biblical literacy in our congregation. It follows the Biblical story chronologically so, until Christmas, our focus will be on the Old Testament. Each week at the beginning of worship, the pastor will give a brief synopsis of the previous week.

At the adult education gathering, concerns were expressed about this change, including having fewer scripture readings, and missing out on traditional readings that people have become used to hearing. Please feel free to express your concerns to the pastors, but we also ask that you keep an open mind-- perhaps we might learn something new!

Fall Stewardship Campaign to focus on ways we love our church

This fall, as we again prepare to make our 2024 financial pledges, please take a moment to consider God’s blessings in your life. I don’t mean just the wonderful things that have happened, but also how God has been with you during difficult or ordinary times too. Think about how serving others has strengthened your faith in God’s presence in our lives. Then reflect on how St. Matthew’s Church has most supported you or what it is you love about our church! Consider how these are also what you want to see flourish and bless others.

In a few weeks you’ll receive a pledge card through USPS. Please take a moment to consider how your financial commitment to St. Matthews helps those things we love continue. As part of St. Matthew’s, your contributions are important. Everyone in this community matters. Every act of serving, each gift is valuable. Pledges will be blessed or consecrated during worship on November 12th to become our support for God’s work through St. Matthew’s in the coming year.

Grateful for each of you,
Pastor Karen



Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.
Philippians 1:3



The timeline for this year’s financial appeal:

Sunday, October 22nd

Kickoff - Children’s Message: What do you love about our Church?

By November 1st

Pledge cards mailed to your home

Sunday, Nov 12th

Consecration Sunday (pledges blessed in worship)

Mt. Meru Coffee Project plans price increase October 1st - first price increase in ten years

Mt Meru Coffee Prices will increase on October 1. This will be for all sizes and blends that we currently offer. There hasn’t been a price increase since 2011, and much has changed since then.

Twelve-ounce bags will go up to \$12, and Single Serve “K” cups will go up to \$9 for 12 cups. Peaberry will go up to \$18/bag. Large, four-lb bags of coffee will now be \$52.

Why? We are raising our prices so we can pay our specialty coffee partners more. In paying our partners more, they are afforded the opportunity to invest more in themselves, their families, and their farms. It will also incentivize them and the younger generation to continue to grow coffee and to employ best practices associated with the best tasting specialty coffee. This is how you can help us realize our mission, live our values and promote economic feasibility for specialty coffee producers.

We thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Stop by the Coffee Cart on Sunday mornings and speak with our coffee ambassador, Dave Holmes, who can answer questions and also make

special orders for you of anything that isn’t in stock.



Keeping Our Kids Safe

St. Matthew's

Child Protection Policy Updated

In 2016, St. Matthew's adopted a Child Protection Policy to keep pace with practices being observed by schools and other agencies serving kids. This spring, the St. Matthew's council initiated a review of the policy facilitated by Laura Crave, St. Matthew's member and Program Director at Awareness to Action, a program of Children's Hospital focused on preventing child abuse. The committee reviewing the policy included Pastor Karen, Council VP Carl Johnson, Gretchen Haugse, Donna Gardner Manke, and John Paradowski.

Major provisions of the policy are:

- There will be two adults present at activities, classes, small groups, etc.
- Single adult supervision situations may occur on a regular or recurring basis (such as Sunday School or Confirmation classes), provided it is a group setting such as Sunday School, Confirmation, and choirs when other activities are taking place in the building.
- If youth or children ask to meet privately with staff members, staff will meet in open areas or in offices with windows or open doors.
- Adult volunteers who work with children or youth (Sunday School staff, confirmation, mission trip chaperones, children's choir helpers, VBS teachers, etc.) will submit to a background check that will be updated every 5 years. Volunteers are expected to sign a Child Protection Policy Acknowledgement Form every 5 years.
- The policy will be reviewed with new staff and with volunteers who work with kids on an annual basis. Parents will also be informed of the policy and procedures each year.

We will continue to review and update the policy on an ongoing basis. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Pastor Karen.



Three-year-olds play as they learn about the Genesis creation story from teacher Doreen Steinbock.

You're invited to help! Guest House of Milwaukee Meal Ministry

Since we last reported on this Meal Ministry in the August 2022 issue of The Voice, volunteers from St Matthew's have prepared and served meals each month at the Guest House, a Milwaukee homeless shelter for men.

We resumed serving dinners inside the shelter in September 2022. That was after the Milwaukee County Health Department lifted pandemic restrictions on entry to the facility, during which time we prepared and dropped-off cooked meals from April 2020 to August 2022.

The residents of the Guest House homeless shelter are so thankful for these meals, which are made possible by the talents and generosity of so many volunteers. Most recently the Guest House organized the TV coverage on January 8, and they wrote: "Thank you again for your faithfulness to Guest House in providing your time, talents, and resources with us!" We want to take this opportunity to thanks to these food preparers and donors from St. Matthew's and our local community from January 2022 to January 2023:

Jenny Acompanado

Don Birschel

Jim Daul

Heather Deaton

Anne DeWitt

Gretchen Haugse and Youth

Dale and Dollie Kirchner

Kristie Kroening

Kelly Mathwick

Ruth and Steve Mielke

Don and Jill Schaeffer

Sobelman's Grill

Chris Weber-Sponnick

Dessert Chefs

Conor Williams

Linda Wunderlich

Carl Johnson will coordinate efforts for volunteers who wish to prepare food at their homes, or at St Matthew's kitchen. Three weeks ahead of each meal, Carl will develop a general dinner plan and send an email to invite volunteers to prepare specific dishes and roles in preparing the meal. He will provide aluminum foil pans and covers to volunteers and pick-up the prepared food from your home or at St Matthews. Help is also needed from 1 or 2 volunteers to serve the dinner each month.

We provide food for 80 men on the second Sunday of each month. Our dates meals in 2023 are shown below:

February 12

March 12

April 9

May 14

June 11

July 9

August 13

September 10

October 8

November 12

December 10

Please contact Carl at carljohnson1023@outlook.com, or by phone or text message at 414-771-1023 to sign-up for food preparation or serving an upcoming meal.



Why the Pray Ground is Important to St. Matthew's Faith Community

A Testimonial from Christopher Kent

As a family with you kids, I couldn't be more thrilled with the Pray Ground initiative launching this fall. My name is Chris, and my wife Sarah and I have younger children - twins Liam and Ella (6) and Henry (3).

As a dad, my great hope for my children is that as they grow they will embark on a faith journey of their own and know Jesus. There are many important things in life to teach, experience, live and do, but none more important than this. In equipping them, I often think about how can I/ and we the church help nurture this relationship? And I feel worship is a component of this. (And for parents who want to be in worship.)

I think constantly about how to and ways to engage them in this journey, especially in this changing climate we live - fewer people attending church, competing outside activities on Sunday and so forth. What would make church more fun and engaging for them. Help them WANT to be there, make Jesus cool!?

Coming across other pray grounds in fellow ELCA churches this last year (namely Advent Lutheran in Madison), I was awed to see young kids engaged in drawing, writing, blocks and other activities at tables in the worship space. These were Christian based activities and set up at tables in the worship spaces. They kept kids engaged and in church, allowing them to participate and be present for the liturgy of events. And for the parents, they could be more present, too! *(continued in next column)*

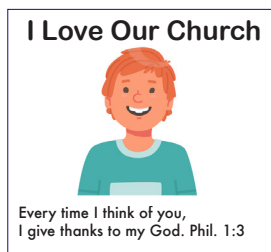


Being honest, we've all been there with young kids, either we feel the need to leave for the nursery, sit in the large Chapel near the choir, and sometimes it just feels like too much. Kids can be loud, wiggly, etc. Everyone always kindly says, "we don't mind the noise" but as a parent, you always feel some pressure from within yourself. And we've also all been there at that season of life our kids say, "I'm bored" or "I don't want to be here" or "can we go?"

And so it goes back to my thought, how do we the church help nurture interest in worship? And so I'm excited for what it affords our kids - which is a fun way to captivate kids and help keep them in worship - it's making Jesus cool :) and for parents, it affords an easier path to staying in worship when with kids, and being able to worship fully yourself.

If you have young kids, I hope you'll join our family in using this great new worship space for kids. And to the church I thank you all for supporting this awesome opportunity to engage our young kids in worship.

Chris Kent



Q: "What happens when we need the seating in that area?"

A: We can bring it back! One of the gifts of St. Matt's sanctuary is that it is flexible—chairs and pews aren't fixed to the floor. When there is a wedding, funeral or a service that requires more seating (like Christmas Eve) we can roll up the rug and set up chairs. We're trying something new and we will learn, adjust and compromise along the way. Have ideas or suggestions? The pastors would love to hear them.



Sunday School

Sunday School Year Is Off to a Great Start!

Over 100 kids gathered on September 10th for the start of the 2023-24 Sunday School year. All grade levels explored various aspects of the Creation stories from Genesis, with preschool kids learning that God created all things – the big and the small. Kids in 1st-5th grades had a big group introduction to the creation story that they will explore through games, art, drama, video, and science in the next five weeks. And middle school classes talked about being created for community.

Sunday School happens every Sunday from 9:45 – 10:45. All kids from preschool to 8th grade are welcome! If you have any questions, contact Gretchen Haugse.



Liam McCorkle (seated, left), Mark Zello, Grant Nickel, and Daniel Zello (seated, right) helped Gretchen Haugse tell the story of creation at the Rally Day Celebration on Sept. 10th.



First grade shepherd Katie Daul welcomes a large group of first graders to the Big Group introducing the first six-week rotation for this year.



Colette Schrubbe answers a question as kids enjoy Creation Snack Mix during the Rotation Big Group.



Sunday School wouldn't happen without this group of teachers who bring patience, creativity, and love to the task of teaching our kids.

I Love Our Church



St. Matthew's Fall Stewardship Theme 2023

Bulletin Board

Our Church Family

Upcoming Healing Prayer Opportunities:

- Sunday, October 22 during the 11:00 worship service**
- Sunday, November 12 after the 11:00 worship service**
- Sunday, December 10 after the 8:30 worship service**

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

Remember that there is an ongoing grief group at St. Matthew's. New attendees are welcomed. Living After Loss: Grief Education and Support, Mondays from 1:00-3:00 at St. Matthew's. Contact Candy Romano 414-687-2196.

Looking for news that connects you to your community? Tune in to one of our member's brand new, local news livestream Hello County for engaging discussions and interviews with local residents. www.hellocounty.com M-F 8am-2pm

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.

Alzheimer's and Related Dementia Caregiver Support Group at The Lutheran Home, 7500 W. North Avenue. Support group meets every third Monday of the month from 10:00-11:30 am. Facilitator is Stephanie Leanes, Caregiver Support, who can be contacted at 414-258-6171, ext. 726. Dates for meetings are:
October 16, November 20, December 18 and continuing each third Monday through 2024.

NAMI Walk at the Zoo! Saturday, October 7. Ready to help build a community of care and support for those living with mental health conditions? Sign up as a team, or on your own. There is no cost to register, but we encourage you to raise support from your friends, family and co-workers. Here's the website for more info and to register: <https://namisoutheastwi.org>
Walk or run for someone you know, or join the "Remembering Eric & Doris Kloth" team in memory of two members of St. Matthew's.



Mae Brielmaier died on September 7. She was active in her women's circle and other women's ministries, such as Women In Touch, meeting on Monday mornings, and was a faithful worshipper before health issues prevented her from getting to church. Our sympathy to her three adult children.

Congratulations to Marge and Chuck Shantz, who celebrate 70 years of marriage on October 10. They were married in 1953, and have seen a lot of changes during their married life together. Chuck shows his feelings here on a recent visit to the office.



Happy 96th Birthday to Evelyn Bollinger on September 2. Evelyn is a member of St. Matthew's, and is a dear family friend of Al & Susan Van Lith. She lives in West Allis. She loves her animal friends and is shown here with a new one she received as a gift.

YTD Financial Results as of:	09/10/23
General Fund Receipts	\$636,730
General Fund Budget (total monthly)	\$661,385
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$24,655)
Benevolence Disbursements	\$103,855
Building Fund Balance	\$192,629



St. Matthew's

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

PERIODICALS RATE

Mail Carrier: Please deliver by September 30, 2023.

The Voice of St. Matthew's

We are called to welcome, nurture, equip and send

Next issue of the VOICE is dated November 5, 2023.

Pet Blessing held at WAUMC on September 9

Our neighbor Pastor Kate Jones blessed all manner of pets in the beautiful courtyard of Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist Church, next-door neighbor to the south of St. Matthew's. Sue Swing set up refreshments in our parking lot as people arrived and departed. It was a beautiful morning for appreciating all of God's creatures! Methodists, Lutherans and visitors enjoyed this jointly-sponsored opportunity.



Laura & Tyler Goeckermann brought two of their four dogs for blessing.



Pastor Kate (in blue) blesses Sunny, Nancy Bowen's rescue dog. Sunny isn't too sure about it, and watches Nancy for reassurance.

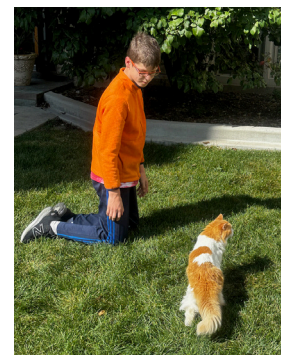


Shannon Kobinsky (right) brought Rose and Tucker for blessing. They enjoyed the socializing, and Tucker shared his great hound bay several times.



Lowell Wille brought his basset hound. She enjoyed a lot of great sniffing! So many good smells!

One of Wauwatosa Police Department's K9 officers (and his human handler) spent an hour sharing information about the dog, its training, and their work together.



Mark Zello closely watched one of the family cats as he explored the grass in the courtyard.